

Title 3

PERSONNEL

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Chapter 3.04
EMPLOYEE CODE OF ETHICS*

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*For regulations prohibiting discrimination in employment by contractors, subcontractors or vendors, see K.C.C. chapter 12.16.

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3.04.010 Code of ethics. There is established a code of ethics for all county officials and employees to provide guidance for public employees in the event of conflicts and to prevent conflicts of interest. (Ord. 1308 § 2, 1972).

3.04.015 Policy.

A. It is the policy of King County that the private conduct and financial dealings of public officials and employees and of candidates for public office shall present no actual or apparent conflict of interest between the public trust and private interest.

B. Public confidence in government is essential and must be sustained by establishing and enforcing rules to assure the impartiality and honesty of officials and employees in all public transactions and decisions. Each affected agency of county government should inform its employees of the provisions of this chapter and strive to effectively enforce its requirements by seeking appropriate assistance from the office of citizen complaints, the board of ethics and the prosecuting attorney when considering and acting upon allegations of misconduct.

C. Former county employees should engage in transactions with the county consistent with the highest level of ethical conduct. It is essential that former county employees and the county maintain public confidence and ensure fair dealings with all persons by the county. A former county employee should not act, or appear to act, in such a manner as to take improper advantage of the former county employee's previous office or position with the county. A former county employee should not request or otherwise seek special consideration, treatment or advantage beyond that which is available to every other person. A former county employee should avoid circumstances in which it appears, or to a reasonable person might appear, that the former county employee is requesting or otherwise seeking special consideration, treatment or advantage. (Ord. 14689 § 1, 2003; Ord. 9704 § 1, 1990).

3.04.017 Definitions. For the purposes of this chapter, all words shall have their ordinary and usual meanings except those defined in this section which shall have, in addition, the following meanings. In the event of conflict, the specific definitions set forth in this section shall presumptively, but not conclusively, prevail.

A. "Accomplice" means a person who with knowledge that an action will promote or facilitate the commission of a crime or violation of an ordinance:

1. Solicits, commands, encourages or requests another person to commit the crime or violation; or
2. Aids or agrees to aid another person in planning or committing the crime or violation.

B. "Compensation" means anything of economic value, however designated, which is paid, granted or transferred, or is to be paid, granted or transferred for, or in consideration of, personal services to any person.

C. "County action" means any action on the part of the county, including, but not limited to:

1. Any decision, determination, finding, ruling or order; and
2. Any grant, payment, award, license, contract, transaction, sanction or approval, or the denial thereof or the failure to act with respect thereto. "County action" shall not include actions of the county's judicial branch but shall include employees of the department of judicial administration.

D. "County employee" or "employee" means any individual who is appointed as an employee by the appointing authority of a county agency, office, department, council, board, commission or other separate unit or division of county government, however designated, but does not include employees of the county's judicial branch. "County employee" also includes county elected officials and members of county boards, commissions, committees or other multimember bodies, but does not include officials or employees of the county's judicial branch but does include employees of the department of judicial administration.

E. "Department" means:

1. In the executive branch, an executive department or administrative office that reports to the executive or the county administrative officer, as applicable;
2. The department of assessments;
3. The office of the prosecuting attorney;
4. In the legislative branch, the council together with any subordinate legislative branch agency;
5. The department of judicial administration;
6. The department of public safety; and
7. The office of economic and financial analysis.

F. "Doing business with the county" or "transactions with the county" means to participate in any proceeding, application, submission, request for ruling or other determination, contract, claim, case or other such a particular matter that the county employee or former county employee in question believes, or has reason to believe:

1. Is, or will be, the subject of county action;
2. Is one to which the county is or will be a party; or
3. Is one in which the county has a direct and substantial proprietary interest.

G. "Gift" means anything of economic value, but shall not include campaign contributions regulated by chapter 42.17 RCW, the charter and ordinances implementing them, informational materials exclusively for official or office use, memorials, trophies and plaques of no commercial value, gifts of twenty dollars or less for bona fide, nonrecurring, ceremonial occasions or any gifts which are not used and which within thirty days after receipt are returned to the donor, or donated to a charitable organization without seeking a tax deduction.

H. "Immediate family" means a county employee's spouse, domestic partner, employee's child or the child of an employee's spouse or domestic partner, and other dependent relatives if living in his or her household.

I. "Ombudsman" means the director of the office of citizen complaints established under Section 260 of the King County Charter and K.C.C. chapter 2.52, or his or her designee.

J. "Participate" means, in connection with a transaction involving the county, to be involved in a county action personally and substantially as a county employee either directly, or through others through approval, disapproval, decision, recommendation, the rendering of advice, investigation or otherwise. However, for the purposes of K.C.C. 3.04.035, "participate" does not include the provision of legal advice or other activities involving the practice of law and does not include, as an elected official, preparation, consideration or enactment of legislation or the performance of legislative duties.

K. "Person" means any individual, partnership, association, corporation, firm, institution or other entity, whether or not operated for profit. The term does not include governmental units of the state of Washington or the United States unless so specified.

L. "Respondent" means the person against whom a complaint is filed or an investigation is conducted.

M. "Retaliatory action" means any action by a supervisor or other employee that is intended to embarrass or to harass any person as a result of the person having filed a written complaint with the office of citizen complaints or having raised privately or publicly any concern or question regarding an actual or apparent violation of this chapter.

N. "Thing of value" means anything of tangible worth which is not compensation or a gift. (Ord. 16758 § 1, 2010: Ord. 16391 § 15, 2009: Ord. 14689 § 3, 2003: Ord. 14199 § 25, 2001: Ord. 12014 § 2, 1995).

3.04.020 Just and equitable treatment.

A. Use of Public Property. No county employee shall request or permit the use of county-owned vehicles, equipment, materials or property or the expenditure of county funds for personal convenience or profit. Use or expenditure is to be restricted to such services as are available to the public generally or for such employee in the conduct of official business.

B. Obligations to Citizens. No county employee shall grant any special consideration, treatment or advantage beyond that which is available to every other citizen.

C. Except as authorized by law and in the course of his or her official duties, no county employee shall use the power or authority of his or her office or position with the county in a manner intended to induce or coerce any other person to provide such county employee or any other person with any compensation, gift, or other thing of value directly or indirectly.

D. No county employee may ask for or receive, directly or indirectly, any compensation, gift, or thing of value, or promise thereof, for performing or for omitting or deferring the performance of any official duty, or action by the county other than the compensation, costs or fees provided by law.

E. Campaign activities. County employees are encouraged to participate in the political process on their own time and outside of the workplace by working on campaigns for the election of any person to any office or for the promotion of or opposition to any ballot proposition, but shall not use or authorize the use of the facilities of King County for such purposes except as authorized by the provisions of RCW 42.17.130. (Ord. 9704 § 3, 1990: Ord. 1308 § 3, 1972).

3.04.030 Conflict of interest.

A. No county employee shall engage in any act which is in conflict with the performance of official duties. A county employee shall be deemed to have a conflict of interest if the employee directly or indirectly:⁽¹⁾

1. Receives or has any financial interest in any purchase, sale or lease to or by the county of any service or property when such financial interest was received or obtained with the prior knowledge that the county intended to purchase, sell or lease such property or service;⁽²⁾

2. Is beneficially interested, directly or indirectly, in any contract, sale, lease, option or purchase that may be made by, through, or under the supervision of the employee, in whole or in part, or accepts, directly or indirectly, any compensation, gift or thing of value from any other person beneficially interested therein;⁽³⁾

3. Accepts or seeks for others, directly or indirectly, any employment, travel expense, service, information, compensation, gift or thing of value on more favorable terms than those granted to other county employees or the public generally, from any person, doing business, or seeking to do business with the county for which the employee has responsibility or with regard to which he or she may participate, provided that this subsection shall not apply to the receipt by elected officials, or by employees who are supervised directly by an elected official, of meals, refreshments or transportation within the boundaries of the county when given in connection with meetings with constituents or meetings which are informational or ceremonial in nature;⁽⁴⁾

4. Accepts, directly or indirectly, any gift, favor, loan, retainer, entertainment, travel expense, compensation or other thing of value from any person doing business or seeking to do business with the county when such acceptance may conflict with the performance of the employee's official duties. A conflict shall be deemed to exist where a reasonable and prudent person would believe that the gift, compensation, thing of value, or more favorable terms, was given for the purpose of obtaining special consideration or to influence county action. The financing of the conduct of county election campaigns shall continue to be governed by chapter 42.17 RCW and the provisions of the charter and ordinances;⁽⁵⁾

5. Participates in, influences or attempts to influence, directly or indirectly, the selection of, or the conduct of business or a transaction with a person doing or seeking to do business with the county if the employee has a financial interest in or with said person;⁽⁶⁾

6. Discusses or accepts an offer of future employment with any person doing or seeking to do business with the county if either:⁽⁷⁾

a. the employee knows or has reason to believe that the offer of employment was or is intended, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, as compensation or reward for the performance or nonperformance of a duty by the employee during the course of county employment or to influence county action pertaining to the business; or⁽⁸⁾

⁽¹⁾ Previously codified as the first paragraph of K.C.C. 3.04.030; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽²⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.A.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽³⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.B.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽⁴⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.C.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽⁵⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.D.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽⁶⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.E.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽⁷⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.F.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽⁸⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.F.1.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

b. the employee has responsibility for a matter upon which the person is doing or seeking to do business with the county unless the employee has first disclosed in writing to his or her appointing authority that the employee intends to discuss future employment with a specific person and the appointing authority has designated, in a memorandum filed with the board of ethics and a copy of which is maintained by the appointing authority, a method of providing for an alternative decision maker with regard to matters involving such person for which the employee otherwise would have responsibility;⁽⁹⁾

7. Within one year of entering county employment awards a county contract or participates in a county action benefiting a person that formerly employed him or her, provided, that participation other than contract award may be authorized in a memorandum by the appointing authority following written disclosure by the affected employee and that such authorization shall be filed with the board of ethics and a copy maintained by the appointing authority;⁽¹⁰⁾

8. Is an employee, agent, officer, partner, director or consultant of any person doing or seeking to do business with the county, unless such relationship has been disclosed as provided by this chapter;⁽¹¹⁾

9.a. Engages in or accepts compensation, employment or renders services for any person or a governmental entity other than the county when such employment or service is incompatible with the proper discharge of official duties or would impair independence of judgment or action in the performance of official duties. In addition, the following employees must obtain the prior written consent of their highest ranking supervisor authorizing either new or continued employment, or the acceptance of any compensation or any thing of value for services performed outside King County government:⁽¹²⁾

(1) the county administrative officer, the chief officer of each executive department or administrative office as defined by the provisions of the charter, the manager of each division of such department or office, and all persons who report directly to such individuals;⁽¹³⁾

(2) all nonelected council employees, provided that the personal staff of each individual councilmember shall obtain such consent from such councilmember;⁽¹⁴⁾

(3) all nonelected employees of the prosecuting attorney;⁽¹⁵⁾

(4) all nonelected employees of the department of judicial administration;⁽¹⁶⁾

(5) all nonelected employees of the department of assessments; and⁽¹⁷⁾

(6) the chief economist of the office of economic and financial analysis.

⁽⁹⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.F.2.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.G.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽¹¹⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.H.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽¹²⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.I.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽¹³⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.I.1.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽¹⁴⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.I.2.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽¹⁵⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.I.3.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽¹⁶⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.I.4.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽¹⁷⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.I.5.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

b. If such employment or service is deemed by the highest-ranking supervisor to pose a conflict of interest, the employee immediately shall divest such employment and failure to do so shall be grounds for dismissal;⁽¹⁸⁾

10. Enters into a business relationship outside county government with any other employee for whom he or she has any supervisory responsibility;⁽¹⁹⁾

11. Enters into a business relationship outside county government with any person with regard to a matter for which the employee has responsibility as a county employee;⁽²⁰⁾

12. Appears on behalf of a person before any regulatory governmental agency, or represents a person in any action or proceeding against the interest of the county in any litigation to which the county is a party, unless the employee has a personal interest in the litigation and this personal interest has been disclosed to the regulatory governmental agency or adjudicating individual or body. A county council member may appear before regulatory governmental agencies on behalf of constituents in the course of his or her duties as a representative of the electorate or in the performance of public or civic obligations; however, no official or employee shall accept a retainer or compensation, or any gift or thing of value that is contingent upon a specific action by a county agency;⁽²¹⁾

13. Directly or indirectly possesses a substantial or controlling interest in any person which does or seeks to do business with the county, without disclosing such interest as provided by this chapter. A substantial interest is an interest that exceeds one-tenth of one percent of the outstanding securities of the person; or, if the interest is in an unincorporated business concern, exceeds one percent of the net worth of such concern; or the financial interest of a person exceeds five percent of the net worth of the employee and his or her immediate family;⁽²²⁾

14. As a county council member has a financial or other private interest in any legislation or other matter coming before the council, and fails to disclose such an interest on the records of the county council. This provision shall not apply if the county council member disqualifies himself or herself from voting by stating the nature and extent of such interest. Any other employee who has a financial or other private interest, and who participates in an action or proposed action of the county council and fails to disclose on the records of the county council the nature and extent of such interest, shall be deemed in violation of this chapter;⁽²³⁾

15.a. Has an interest in any property being considered for revaluation by the county board of appeals and equalization or has a personal interest or connection with another person's petition for revaluation while;⁽²⁴⁾

(1) an elected county official;⁽²⁵⁾

(2) the executive's administrative assistants and office manager;⁽²⁶⁾

(3) county councilmembers' executive secretaries;⁽²⁷⁾

(4) county administrative officer, the county administrative officer's administrative assistants and the county administrative officer's confidential secretary;⁽²⁸⁾

(5) chief officer of each executive department, the chief officer's administrative assistants and confidential secretary;⁽²⁹⁾

(6) chief officer of each administrative office, the chief officer's administrative assistants and the chief officer's confidential secretary;⁽³⁰⁾

(7) council administrator, the council administrator's administrative assistants and the council administrator's secretary;⁽³¹⁾

⁽¹⁸⁾ Previously codified as the last paragraph of K.C.C. 3.04.030.I.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽¹⁹⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.J.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽²⁰⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.K.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽²¹⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.L.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽²²⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.M.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽²³⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.N.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽²⁴⁾ Previously codified as the first paragraph of K.C.C. 3.04.030.O.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽²⁵⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.O.1.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽²⁶⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.O.3.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽²⁷⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.O.4.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽²⁸⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.O.5.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽²⁹⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.O.6.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽³⁰⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.O.7.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽³¹⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.O.8.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

(8) the ombudsman and the ombudsman's staff;⁽³²⁾
 (9) an employee of the department of assessments;⁽³³⁾
 (10) an employee assigned to either the board of equalization or the board of appeals, or both;
 and⁽³⁴⁾

(11) any other county employee who has direct contact with the board of appeals and equalization in the carrying out of his or her duties;⁽³⁵⁾

(12) a member of either the county board of appeals or the board of equalization, or both; and⁽³⁶⁾

(13) clerk of the council and his or her secretaries.⁽³⁷⁾

b. All persons listed in subsection A.15.a.(1). through (13). of this section, who wish to appeal to the county board of equalization on a matter of property revaluation shall be governed by the procedure in K.C.C. 3.04.040;⁽³⁸⁾

16. As an appointive member of a board or commission, has a close relative serving on the same board or commission. For the purposes of this subsection, close relative is defined as:

Husband	Wife
Father	Father-in-law
Mother	Mother-in-law
Brother	Brother-in-law
Sister	Sister-in-law
Son-in-law	Daughter-in-law
Niece	Nephew
Grandparent	Grandchild
Uncle	Aunt
Child	Child of domestic partner
Domestic partner	

In addition, the relatives of a domestic partner shall be considered close relatives to the same extent such relatives would be included in this subsection if the employee and the domestic partner were married;⁽³⁹⁾

17. Discloses or uses for the personal benefit of the employee or his or her immediate family any information acquired in the course of official duties which is not available as a matter of public knowledge or public record; or⁽⁴⁰⁾

18. Acts as an accomplice in any act by an immediate family member which, if such act were performed by the employee would be prohibited by 1., 2., 3., 4., 5., 6., 7., 8., 10., 11., 13., 14., 15. or 17. of this subsection. However, it shall not be a conflict of interest for such family member to enter into a bona fide contract of employment which is not intended to influence the action of the county employee.⁽⁴¹⁾

B. Subsection of A.2., 5., and 14. of this section is not violated by the possession by an employee of a financial interest in a person or other entity which is not a substantial interest as defined by subsection A.13. of this section.⁽⁴²⁾ (Ord. 16391 § 16, 2009: 14218 § 1, 2001: Ord. 14199 § 26, 2001: Ord. 12014 § 3, 1995).

Reviser's note: This section was amended by Ordinance 14199 § 26 and Ordinance 14218 § 1, each without reference to the other. Both amendments are incorporated in the publication of this section under K.C.C. 1.02.090.

⁽³²⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.O.9.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽³³⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.O.10.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽³⁴⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.O.11.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽³⁵⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.O.12.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽³⁶⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.O.13.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽³⁷⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.O.14. renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽³⁸⁾ Previously codified as the last paragraph of K.C.C. 3.04.030.O.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽³⁹⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.P.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽⁴⁰⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.Q.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽⁴¹⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.R.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

⁽⁴²⁾ Previously codified as K.C.C. 3.04.030.S.; renumbered by Ordinance 14218 § 1, 2001.

3.04.035 Conflict of interest - former employees and members of county boards and commissions.

A. For one year after terminating service to the county, a former member of a county board, commission, committee or other multimember body may not appear before that board, commission, committee or other multimember body, or receive compensation for any services rendered on behalf of or for assistance to any person, in relation to any county action in which the former member participated during the period of his or her service. This prohibition also applies during the same period of time to any person who is a partner, associate or member of a partnership, association, corporation, firm, institution or other entity, whether or not operated for profit, in which the former member has a financial or beneficial interest. However, this prohibition does not apply if the former member's financial or beneficial interest in any entity listed in this subsection is limited to investments and does not include managerial or other influential authority, including holding controlling interest in any classes of stock.

B. For one year after leaving county employment, a former county employee may not have a financial or beneficial interest in a contract or grant that was planned, authorized or funded by a county action in which the former county employee participated during county employment.

C. For one year after leaving county employment, a former county employee may not assist a person, whether or not for compensation, in any county action in which the former county employee participated during county employment. This subsection does not prohibit a former county employee from rendering assistance to county employees in the course of employee organization business.

D. For one year after leaving county employment, a former employee must disclose his or her past county employment before participation in any county action. The disclosure shall be made in writing to the department considering or taking the county action on which the former employee is or would be participating.

E. A former county employee may not, for the personal benefit of the former employee or a member of the former employee's immediate family, disclose or use any privileged or proprietary information gained by reason of the former employee's county employment unless the information is a matter of public knowledge or is available to the public on request.

F. A former county employee may not assist any person for compensation on matters in which the former employee is personally prohibited from participating.

G. It is not a violation of this chapter for a former county employee to render assistance to a person if the assistance is provided without compensation in any form and is limited to one or more of the following:

1. Providing names, work addresses and work telephone numbers of county agencies or county employees, to the extent the information is available as a matter of public record under state law;
2. Providing free transportation to another for the purpose of conducting business with a county agency;
3. Assisting oneself or another person in obtaining or completing forms required by a county agency for the conduct of a county business;
4. Providing assistance to the poor or infirm; or
5. Engaging in conduct that is authorized or protected by the constitutions or laws of Washington state or the United States.

H.1. This section does not prohibit a former county employee from accepting future employment with the county at any time, including employment with his or her former department.

2. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a former county employee is not prohibited from appearing before the county or seeking a county action on his or her own behalf to the same extent other persons may appear before or seek actions by the county.

I. Except as otherwise limited by this chapter, a former county employee may contract with the county, or participate in a contract with the county, to provide materials, equipment, supplies or services. However, any such a contract must comply with applicable requirements and procedures related to procurement. (Ord. 14689 § 2, 2003: Ord. 10841 § 1, 1993: Ord. 9704 § 5, 1990: Ord. 6144 § 2, 1982).

3.04.037 Duty to notify supervisor. Any employee who becomes aware that he or she may have a potential conflict of interest which arises in the course of his or her official duties shall notify in writing his or her supervisor or appointing authority of such potential conflict.

Upon receipt of such notification the supervisor or appointing authority shall take action to resolve the potential conflict of interest, including but not limited to designating within a reasonable time an alternative employee to perform the duty which is involved in the potential conflict. The disposition of the potential conflict shall be stated in writing in files maintained by the supervisor or official. The supervisor or official may request an advisory opinion from the board of ethics before disposing of such potential conflict. (Ord. 11185 § 3, 1993: Ord. 9704 § 8, 1990).

3.04.040 Board of Equalization Appeals. All persons deemed to have a conflict of interest, in accordance with K.C.C. 3.04.030. A., and wishing to appeal to the county board of equalization shall be governed by the following procedure;

The appeal shall be automatically denied by the county board of equalization without hearing and a minute entry shall be made. The petitioner may then take action to appeal the decision of the county board of equalization to the State Board of Appeals in accordance with RCW 84.08.130.

However, the Board of Equalization may grant a change of venue to a Board of Equalization of another county, as provided in K.C.C. Title 2, in lieu of automatic denial, when:

A. A quorum cannot be achieved due to members of the board disqualifying themselves because of conflicts of interest or the appearance of fairness doctrine; or

B. When equalization is the basis for an appeal by a member of the board, assistants to the board, or any member of the county governmental authority or his or her own property or on property in which that person has an interest. (Ord. 16758 § 2, 2010: Ord. 11185 § 4, 1993: Ord. 6411, 1983: Ord. 1308 § 5, 1972).

3.04.050 Statement of financial and other interests.

A. All candidates for county elective office, and nominees for appointment to any county elective office except for judicial candidates, within two weeks of becoming a candidate or nominee, and all elected officials who are defined as county employees under K.C.C. 3.04.017, paid in whole or in part by county funds, shall file with the board of ethics a statement of financial and other interests as defined in this section. These requirements may be satisfied by filing with the board of ethics a copy of the report required to be filed by RCW 42.17.240, if this report contains an original signature of the person filing the report. The board of ethics shall forward a copy of such statements, reports and forms to the elections division, or its successor agency, within ten days of their receipt.

B. Within ten days of employment or appointment and on or before April 15 of each year thereafter, the following employees shall file a written statement of financial and other interests, as defined in this section, with the board of ethics: all employees appointed by the county executive; all employees appointed by the county administrative officer or department directors and who are subject to the approval of the county executive; all employees of the council; all employees of the office of economic and financial analysis; and such additional employees as may be determined in accordance with criteria adopted by the board of ethics under subsection C. of this section. Within two weeks of becoming a nominee for appointment to county boards and commissions, the nominee shall file a written statement of financial and other interests, as defined in this section, with the board of ethics.

C. The board of ethics shall adopt by rule criteria for determining which employees, in addition to those designated in subsection B. of this section, are required to complete and file statements of financial and other interests. The criteria must consider the association between the duties and responsibilities of employees and the conflict of interest provisions in K.C.C. 3.04.030.

D.1. The statement of financial and other interests required to be filed under this section must include the following information of which the employee has, or reasonably should have, knowledge for the reporting year:

a. compensation, gifts and things of value:

(1) the name of each person engaged in a transaction, as defined by K.C.C. 3.04.017.F, with King County in which the employee may participate or has responsibility for, from whom the employee or a member of the employee's immediate family received any compensation, gift or thing of value; and

(2) the name of the individual who received the compensation, gift or thing of value and the individual's relationship to the employee;

b. financial interests:

(1) the name of each person engaged in a transaction, as defined by K.C.C. 3.04.017.F, with King County in which the employee may participate or has responsibility for, in whom the employee or a member of the employee's immediate family possessed a financial interest; and

(2) the name of the individual who possessed the financial interest and the individual's relationship to the employee;

c. positions:

(1) the name of each person engaged in a transaction, as defined by K.C.C. 3.04.017.F, with King County in which the employee may participate or has responsibility for, with whom the employee or a member of the employee's immediate family held a position;

(2) the name of the individual who held the position and the individual's relationship to the employee; and

(3) the title of the position; and

d. real property:

(1) real property, listed by street address, assessor parcel number or legal description that was either involved in or the subject of an action by King County, in which the employee or a member of the employee's immediate family possessed a financial interest;

(2) the name of the individual who possessed the financial interest and the individual's relationship to the employee; and

(3) the name of the King County department involved in the transaction.

2. Property for which the only county action was valuation for tax purposes does not have to be reported except by those employees of the department of assessments and the board of appeals who are required to file a report. The use the individual made of the real property, such as recreation, personal residence or income, does not have to be reported.

E. For purposes of the statements of financial and other interests required to be filed annually, the "reporting year" means the preceding calendar year. For purposes of the statements of financial and other interests to be filed within ten days of employment or appointment, the "reporting year" means the preceding twelve calendar months.

F. An individual filing a statement of financial affairs in accordance with subsections A. and B. of this section shall execute a written declaration that:

1. Recites that the statement is declared by the person to be true, complete and correct under penalty of perjury;

2. Is signed by the person;

3. States the date and place of the declaration's execution; and

4. States that the declaration is so declared under the laws of the state of Washington.

G. The financing of election campaigns shall continue to be governed by other applicable local, state and federal laws, and not by the provisions of this chapter.

H. Filing of the written statement of financial and other interests, as defined in this section, does not relieve the employee of the duty to notify his or her supervisor of a potential conflict of interest as required by K.C.C. 3.04.037.

I. The board may adopt rules and regulations by which affected employees may request suspension or modification of the requirements to disclose financial and other interests set forth in this section if the literal application of the requirements would cause a manifestly unreasonable hardship and the suspension or modification would not frustrate the purposes of this chapter.

J. The board of ethics may adopt necessary and appropriate rules, regulations and forms related to completing, filing, maintaining and disclosing statements of financial and other interests under this section. The board, if adopting the rules, regulations and forms, shall adopt them as provided in K.C.C. chapter 2.98. (Ord. 16391 § 17, 2009: Ord. 15971 § 41, 2007: Ord. 15148 § 1, 2005: Ord. 14218 § 2, 2001: Ord. 14199 § 27, 2001: Ord. 13657 § 1999: Ord. 9704 § 6, 1990: Ord. 4808 § 1, 1980: Ord. 2294 § 1, 1975: Ord. 2184 § 2, 1974: Ord. 1308 § 6, 1972).

3.04.055 Complaints - investigations.

A. It shall be the responsibility of the ombudsman to investigate and report apparent criminal violations of this chapter to the appropriate law enforcement authorities and to enforce this ordinance according to the powers granted herein.

B. Complaints alleging a violation of this chapter shall be filed with the ombudsman. Any such a complaint shall be in writing, verified and signed by the complainant. The complainant may state in writing whether the complainant wishes his or her name not to be disclosed in accordance with RCW 42.56.240(2). The complaint shall describe the basis for the complainant's belief that this chapter has been violated.

C. Upon receipt of a complaint meeting the requirements of subsection B. of this section, the ombudsman shall cause to be served or mailed, by certified mail, return receipt requested, a copy of the complaint to the person alleged to have violated this chapter within twenty days after the filing of said complaint, and shall promptly make an investigation thereof.

D. The investigation by the ombudsman shall be directed to ascertain the facts concerning the violation or violations of this chapter alleged in the complaint and shall be conducted in an objective and impartial manner and in furtherance of the investigation the ombudsman is authorized to use the subpoena power to compel sworn testimony from any person and require the production of any records relevant or material to the investigation except information which is legally privileged or otherwise required by law not to be disclosed.

E. During the investigation, the ombudsman shall consider any statement of position or evidence with respect to the allegations of the complaint which the complainant or respondent, wishes to submit.

F. The results of the investigation shall be reduced to written findings of fact and the finding shall be made that there either is or is not reasonable cause for believing that the respondent has violated this chapter.

G. If a finding is made that there is no reasonable cause, said finding shall be served or mailed, by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the complainant and the respondent, and a copy shall be provided to the board of ethics.

H.1. If the finding is made that reasonable cause exists to believe that the respondent has violated this chapter, the ombudsman shall prepare an order to that effect, a copy of which shall be served or mailed, by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the respondent, and the original thereof filed with the board of ethics. The ombudsman shall provide a copy of the order to the office of the prosecuting attorney. Such a reasonable cause order shall include:

- a. a finding that one or more violations of the chapter has occurred;
- b. the factual basis for the finding; and
- c. a notice informing the respondent that the respondent has the right to request a hearing before the board of ethics as set forth in K.C.C. 3.04.057.

2. If the respondent does not request an appeal hearing in a timely manner under K.C.C. 3.04.057, the ombudsman shall provide a copy of the reasonable cause order to the complainant and the respondent's appointing authority. (Ord. 16758 § 3, 2010: Ord. 14218 § 3, 2001: Ord. 11185 § 5, 1993: Ord. 9704 § 9, 1990).

3.04.057 Appeal.

A. Any respondent aggrieved by an order of the ombudsman may request in writing within twenty days of the service of the order upon the respondent an appeal hearing before the board of ethics. The request shall cite the order appealed from and specify with particularity the findings being contested. The request shall be filed with the board of ethics, with a copy provided to the ombudsman;

B. Any order issued by the ombudsman pursuant to K.C.C. 3.04.055 shall become final twenty days after service of the order unless a written request for an appeal hearing as set forth above is received by the board of ethics within the twenty-day period;

C. If an order of the ombudsman has been timely appealed, a hearing shall be conducted by the board of ethics for the purpose of affirming, denying or modifying the order. The parties to the hearing shall be the respondent and the ombudsman or his or her designee. There shall be a verbatim record kept of the hearing and the board of ethics shall have the power to administer oaths and affirmations, issue subpoenas and compel attendance, take evidence and require the production of any books, papers, correspondence, memoranda or other records relevant or material to the hearing. The burden of proving that a violation occurred shall at all times be upon the ombudsman. The board of ethics's decision shall be based upon a preponderance of the evidence. Such hearing shall be conducted within a reasonable time after receipt of the request for appeal. Written notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be given at least ten days prior to the date of the hearing to the parties;

D. At the hearing, each party shall have the following rights:

1. To call and examine witnesses on any matter relevant to the issues raised by the order of the ombudsman or his or her designee;
2. To introduce documentary and physical evidence;
3. To cross-examine opposing witnesses on any relevant matter;
4. To impeach any witness regardless of which party first called the witness to testify;
5. To rebut evidence against him or her; and
6. To represent himself or herself or to be represented by anyone of his or her choice who is lawfully permitted to do so;

E. Following review of the evidence submitted, the board shall within a reasonable time enter written findings and conclusions and shall affirm or modify the order previously issued if the board finds that one or more violations of this chapter has occurred. The board shall reverse the order if it finds no violations of this chapter have occurred. A copy of the board's decision shall be served or mailed, by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the respondent, and the original thereof retained by the board. The board shall provide a copy of its decision to the ombudsman, the respondent's appointing authority, the office of the prosecuting attorney and the complainant. (Ord. 14218 § 4, 2001: Ord. 11185 § 6, 1993: Ord. 9704 § 10, 1990).

3.04.060 Penalties.

A. Criminal Penalties. Any negligent or willful violation of the provisions of this chapter shall constitute a misdemeanor and upon conviction be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 or imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed ninety days; or both;

B. Civil Penalties and Disciplinary Action.

1. Any elected official who commits a violation of this chapter shall be subject to penalties as provided by RCW 42.12.010 and King County Charter and shall be subject to a civil penalty of an amount not to exceed the lesser of one month of the respondent's county pay or the amount authorized by law. Any person having an existing contract with King County or seeking to obtain a contract who willfully attempts to secure preferential treatment in his/her dealings with the county by offering any valuable consideration, thing of value or gift, whether in the form of services, loan, thing or promise, in any form to any county official or employee, shall have his/her current contracts with the county canceled and shall not be able to bid on any other county contract for a period of two years.

2. An employee of the county who commits a violation of this chapter shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination from employment; provided that such disciplinary action is consistent with Career Service Guidelines and collective bargaining agreements. An employee of the county who commits a violation of this chapter shall also be subject to a civil penalty; provided that such penalty shall not exceed the lesser of one month of the respondent's county pay or the amount authorized by law.

3. Members of boards and commissions who commit a violation of this chapter shall be subject to immediate removal from such appointment.

C. Civil and criminal liability under the provisions of this section shall be imposed on any person who either directly or as an accomplice commits a violation of this chapter.

D. A county employee who engages in retaliatory action as defined herein shall be subject to civil and criminal penalties as set forth in this section. (Ord. 11185 § 7, 1993: Ord. 9704 § 7, 1990: Ord. 1308 § 7, 1972).

3.04.070 Constitutionality. Should any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of Sections 3.04.010 through 3.04.060 be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of Sections 3.04.010 through 3.04.060. (Ord. 1308 § 8, 1972).

3.04.080 Board of ethics - Membership and terms. There is created a board of ethics, composed of five members, two to be appointed by the county executive, two to be appointed by the county executive from a list of nominees submitted by the county council, and the fifth, who shall be chairman, to be appointed by the county executive from a list of nominees submitted by the other four members. All appointments are to be confirmed by the county council. The terms of the board members shall be three years. The first three members shall be appointed for one, two and three-year terms respectively. The chairman shall have a three-year term; the other terms are to be determined by lot. A member of the board of ethics may be removed for just cause by a two-thirds vote of the county council, after written charges have been served on the member and a public hearing has been held by the county council. The board shall be advisory and shall meet as frequently as it deems necessary. A majority of the board shall constitute a quorum. (Ord. 11185 § 8, 1993: Ord. 1321 § 2, 1972).

3.04.090 Board of ethics - Purpose. The purpose of the board of ethics shall be to insure proper implementation of the code of ethics and to investigate and report on conflicts of interest. (Ord. 1321 § 3, 1972).

3.04.100 Board of ethics - Authority.

A. Whenever requested by a county officer or employee, or whenever it deems it in the public interest, the board of ethics shall render advisory opinions, in writing, concerning questions of ethics, conflicts of interest, and the applicability of the code of ethics. Copies of the opinion shall be delivered to the ombudsman, the county executive and all members of the King County council. Such opinion may also be released to the public at the discretion of the board with such omissions as may be necessary to protect the confidence and privacy of county officers or employees. A written copy of the board's opinion shall be delivered to the officer or employee requesting the opinion.

B. The board shall hear appeals from orders of the ombudsman as provided in this chapter. (Ord. 9704 § 12, 1990: Ord. 1321 § 4, 1972).

3.04.110 Board of ethics - Income disclosure. The board of ethics shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations delineating personnel employed by the county, not included in the county code of ethics, who shall be required to complete and file statements of disclosure of income and investments. The statements of elected officials, candidates, department directors, division managers, the county administrative officer, chief officers of administrative offices and the county executive's administrative assistants shall be public record. All other statements shall not be made public without written approval of the board of ethics. (Ord. 14199 § 28, 2001: Ord. 3434 § 1, 1977: Ord. 1321 § 5, 1972).

3.04.120 Disclosure of interests by consultants.

A.1. Each consultant entering into a contract to provide professional or technical services to the county costing in excess of the amount specified in K.C.C. 4.16.095 shall file both with the King County board of ethics and the executive a sworn written statement disclosing the following information:

- a. any office or directorship in the consultant held by any county employee or any member of his or her immediate family;
- b. any financial interest in the consultant held or received by any county employee or any member of his or her immediate family as follows:
 - (1) ownership of over five percent of the stock or other form of interest in the consultant; and
 - (2) receipt of any compensation, gift or thing of value from the consultant;

c. a list of all contracts between the consultant and the county in the five years immediately preceding the presently contemplated contract including the amount of money paid by the county to the consultant in accordance with to each contract;

d. any position or positions on any county board or commission, whether salaried or unsalaried, held by any officer or director of the consultant in the five years immediately preceding the presently contemplated contract; and

e. any other information known to the consultant about any interest or relationship whatsoever between any county employee, including any member of his or her immediate family, and the consultant, other than that disclosed in accordance with subsection A.1.a. through d. of this section.

2. Unless otherwise specified in this section, the information disclosed shall cover the period twenty-four months before and including the date of filing the sworn statement.

3. A consultant filing a King County consultant disclosure form in accordance with this section shall execute a written declaration that:

a. recites that the information in the disclosure form is declared by the consultant to be true, complete and correct under penalty of perjury;

b. is signed by the consultant;

c. states the date and place of the declaration's execution; and

d. states that the declaration is so declared under the laws of the state of Washington.

B. No payment shall be made on any contract with any consultant until five days after receipt by the board of ethics and the executive of the information required to be disclosed by this section.

C. For purposes of this section, "consultant" means a person who by experience, training and education has established a reputation or ability to provide professional or technical services, as defined in K.C.C. 4.16.010, on a discrete, nonrecurring basis over a limited and preestablished term as an independent contractor to the county. (Ord. 16758 § 4, 2010: Ord. 15148 § 2, 2005: Ord. 13710 § 1, 2000: Ord. 12138 § 4, 1996).

3.04.130 Authorization to Implement Procedures. The ombudsman and the board of ethics are each authorized to implement such forms, administrative processes, and operational procedures as are necessary to comply with the provisions of this chapter; provided that any rules governing the conduct of contested hearings shall be promulgated in compliance with K.C.C. 2.98, Rules of County Agencies.

The executive is directed to prepare, with the assistance of council staff, the office of the prosecuting attorney, the ombudsman and the board of ethics, information regarding the provisions of this chapter to be made available to employees and members of boards and commissions the availability of these materials and of copies of this chapter shall be described in a summary form which shall be distributed to all county employees on or before April 20, 1994 and an acknowledgment of receipt of such form shall be signed and returned by each employee to the office of human resource management on or before May 20, 1994. Each new employee shall sign and return such form prior to commencing work for King County. (Ord. 11185 § 9, 1993: Ord. 9704 § 13, 1990).

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Chapter 3.08
PERSONNEL BOARD

Sections:

- 3.08.010 Elections for career service employee representative on board.
- 3.08.020 Election dates.
- 3.08.030 Voters eligible.
- 3.08.035 Candidates.
- 3.08.040 Filing.
- 3.08.050 Ballot listing.
- 3.08.060 Notice of elections.
- 3.08.070 Conduct of elections.
- 3.08.100 Subpoena power of board.
- 3.08.110 Compensation.
- 3.08.120 Administrative support.

3.08.010 Elections for career service employee representative on board. Primaries and elections are hereby established for the purpose of nominating and electing a personnel board member by the King County career service employees as provided in Section 540 of the King County Charter. (Ord. 11808 § 1, 1995: Ord. 543 § 1, 1970).

3.08.020 Election dates.

A. Commencing in 1995, a nominating primary for candidates for the position of career service representative on the personnel board shall be held on the first Tuesday of June and the election of candidates nominated at the primary shall be conducted on the fourth Tuesday of June, and shall continue to be conducted on the first and fourth Tuesday in June every five years thereafter.

B. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes and the candidate receiving the second highest number of votes in the nominating primary shall both be nominated for the election.

C. At the election held on the fourth Tuesday of June, the nominee receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected.

D. If a candidate receives more than fifty percent of the votes cast by the eligible voters in the nominating special elections primaries as authorized herein, there shall be no further elections and the candidate will be elected.

E. In the event of a vacancy, as defined in RCW 42.12.010, an election to fill the vacancy shall be held on the fourth Tuesday of June that is more than two months following the vacancy, a special three day filing period will be held in the first week of June. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes of all candidates shall be elected to fill the remainder of the term commencing immediately upon certification of the election. (Ord. 11808 § 2, 1995: Ord. 602 § 1, 1970: Ord. 543 § 2, 1970).

3.08.030 Voters eligible. Persons eligible to vote in elections authorized herein are the members of the county career service as set forth in Chapter 3.12 of this title and Section 550 of the County Charter. (Ord. 543 § 3, 1970).

3.08.035 Candidates. Any resident of the State of Washington except a current employee of King County including the department of metropolitan services as defined in K.C.C. 3.12.010 is eligible to file for the candidacy for the position of career service employee representative. (Ord. 11808 § 6, 1995).

3.08.040 Filing. Candidates for county personnel board member shall file declarations of candidacy with the elections division not earlier than twenty-nine days and not later than twenty-five days prior to the primary during each election year prescribed herein. Any candidate may withdraw his or her declaration not later than nineteen days prior to the first election during each election year prescribed herein. A non-refundable five dollar filing fee shall be charged for filing a declaration of candidacy. (Ord. 15971 § 42, 2007: Ord. 11808 § 3, 1995: Ord. 543 § 4, 1970).

3.08.050 Ballot listing. The names of candidates for personnel board member to be voted upon at both special elections shall be printed upon the official ballots in alphabetical order. (Ord. 543 § 5, 1970).

3.08.060 Notice of elections.

A. Notice of the candidacy filing period and of each primary and election shall be prepared by the elections division and distributed to all county agencies employing persons eligible to vote. Agency directors and managers shall ensure that eligible employees under their supervision are provided notification. Copies of the notices shall be posted in prominent places within buildings in which eligible employees are employed.

B. The notice for the candidacy filing period shall be made not later than thirty-five days prior to the date of the primary. The notice of the primary and election shall be made not later than twenty-five days prior to the date of the primary prescribed by this chapter. (Ord. 15971 § 43, 2007: Ord. 11808 § 4, 1995: Ord. 543 § 6, 1970).

3.08.070 Conduct of elections. The primaries and elections called for in this chapter shall be conducted by the elections division generally following the procedures for conducting county elections except as otherwise provided in this chapter or as prescribed by administrative rules promulgated by the elections division manager. The manager is authorized to conduct such elections by mail ballot including distribution with employee paychecks or by the United States Postal Service. Ballots may be returned to the elections division via the United States Postal Service or in a secure manner as approved by the manager of the elections division. The results of the election shall be certified by the elections division manager. The manager shall issue certificates of nomination as applicable and a certificate of election to the successful candidate.

Any resident of the state of Washington, except a current employee of the county, is eligible to file for candidacy for the position of career service employee representative. (Ord. 15971 § 44, 2007: Ord. 12014 § 4, 1995).

3.08.100 Powers of board. Under Section 540 of the King County Charter, the King County personnel board is hereby granted the power to administer oaths and affirmations and to issue subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum to compel the attendance of witnesses before the board and to provide information relevant to any appeal within the jurisdiction of the board: provided, that any witness shall have the right to be represented by counsel. (Ord. 13509 § 1, 1999: Ord. 327 § 1, 1970).

3.08.110 Compensation. For time devoted to the official work of the personnel board, each member thereof shall receive a per diem of one hundred dollars to be paid out of the current expense fund; provided that a per diem of seventy-five dollars shall be paid for official board work of three hours or less; provided further that an additional twenty-five dollars per day will be paid to the chair of the board during any full day (six hours or more) or thirteen dollars for work of three hours or less in which board business is conducted. The county is further authorized to pay for reasonable parking expenses of personnel board members while board business is conducted.

Further, the executive shall report back to the council no later than December 31, 1999 on the expenses incurred during the calendar year of 1999 at the new per diem rate and shall make recommendations to the council on any further adjustments to the per diem rate as may be needed at that time. (Ord. 13370 § 1, 1998: Ord. 4809 § 1, 1980: Ord. 1572 § 1, 1973: Ord. 174 (part), 1970).

3.08.120 Administrative support. Beginning January 1, 1999, administrative support to the personnel board will be provided by the clerk of the board of appeals and equalization authorized by K.C.C. 2.34.040. Authority for appointment of the clerk and staff will remain with the board of appeals and equalization; however, the chair of the personnel board may bring concerns about performance and related issues to the attention of the chair of the board of appeals and equalization for resolution.

The board of appeals and equalization will be reimbursed by the office of human resources management for costs related to personnel board activities such as board per diem, supplies, and services other than staffing, employee benefits, and office equipment. (Ord. 13370 § 2, 1998).

Chapter 3.10
CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

Sections:

- 3.10.010 Creation.
- 3.10.020 Composition.
- 3.10.030 Purpose and functions.
- 3.10.040 Review process.
- 3.10.050 Rules.
- 3.10.060 Staff.
- 3.10.070 Meetings.

3.10.010 Creation. There is hereby created a King County civil rights commission referred to in this chapter as the commission. (Ord. 12058 § 1, 1995: Ord. 2647 § 3, 1976).

3.10.020 Composition.

A. The civil rights commission shall be composed of twelve members, one nominated from each council district by the county councilmember and three at-large members appointed by the executive. Members shall be appointed by the executive and confirmed by the county council by motion.

B. Commission members representing council districts shall be appointed in the manner set forth in K.C.C. 2.28.0015.

C. Officers shall be elected annually from the voting body of members as follows: chair; vice chair; and secretary. (Ord. 15548 § 6, 2006: Ord. 12058 § 2, 1995: Ord. 6891 § 2, 1984: Ord. 2647 § 5, 1976).

3.10.030 Purpose and functions. The commission shall serve in an advisory capacity to the county executive and the council on matters concerning affirmative action, disability access, equal employment opportunity, contract compliance, fair housing, minority/woman business and public accommodations to ensure the consistent application of all county ordinances, rules and regulations concerning these programs. The powers of the commission shall be advisory only, and when the commission is granted authority to review, monitor, lead, report, identify, assess, evaluate, adopt, or perform, such actions shall be consistent with, and strictly limited to, offering advice and recommendations to the county executive and the county council. The functions of the commission shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

A. Review the affirmative action plan and make recommendations concerning its adoption and subsequent amendment to the county executive.

B. Monitor and review the implementation of civil rights ordinances and policies to determine compliance and effectiveness.

C. Propose legislation to the county council.

D. Take a strong leadership role in raising community awareness and involvement on civil rights issues.

E. Review civil rights issues brought to the commission by concerned individuals or groups. Requests for review of civil rights issues shall follow the procedure set out in K.C.C. 3.10.040B through E.

F. Report to the county council committee-of-the-whole semi-annually; provided that the civil rights commission shall, prior to July 1, 1996, carry out the following tasks:

1. Identify the goals, program components and characteristics and anticipated outcomes resulting from the county's civil rights policies, taking into consideration the limitations placed upon such policies by recent court decisions;

2. Assess community needs and issues with respect to civil rights, including unincorporated King County, taking into consideration the fact that King County has consistently met or exceeded affirmative action goals in most categories.

3. Evaluate and make recommendations on the organizational structure, program resources, goals and objectives, and program policies necessary to address needs and issues and achieve an updated civil rights program;

4. The commission shall submit its report to the executive. The executive shall review the report and submit it, with his recommendations and implementation plans to the King County council. (Ord. 12058 § 3, 1995: Ord. 6891 § 2, 1984: Ord. 2647 § 5, 1976).

3.10.040 Review process.

A. Any person who has filed a complaint under the minority/women's business ordinance, K.C.C. 4.18; or the contract compliance ordinance, K.C.C. 12.16; and who disagrees with a finding of no reasonable cause issued in the case by the minority and women's business enterprises and contract compliance division or under the Fair Employment Ordinance, K.C.C. 12.18, the Fair Housing Ordinance, K.C.C. 12.20, or the public accommodations ordinance, K.C.C. 12.22, and who disagrees with a finding of no reasonable cause issued in the case by the department of information and administrative services, and who has requested reconsideration of the finding which has been denied, may request that the commission review the procedures and processes utilized by the minority and women's business enterprises and contract compliance division or department of information and administrative services, as appropriate.

B. Requests for review shall be in writing addressed to the King County Civil Rights Commission, in care of the minority and women's business enterprises and contract compliance division or department of information and administrative services, as appropriate.

C. Requests for review shall be granted in accordance with the purposes of the commission and such rules as are adopted by the commission.

D. In conducting its reviews, the commission may hold informal fact finding sessions with respect to processes and procedures.

E. Where appropriate, commission reviews shall result in recommendations to the county executive (Ord. 12058 § 4, 1995).

3.10.050 Rules. The commission is empowered to adopt such procedures as deemed necessary to ensure its proper functioning and to handle all reviews and other issues consistent with the commission's stated purpose. This includes, but it is not limited to, the formation of standing committees as follows:

A. Executive committee. This committee shall perform administrative oversight activities of the commission, including representing the commission, conducting business outside of regular commission meetings, and performing other relating and necessary activities in the interest of ensuring an effective county human and civil rights program.

B. Public policy committee. This committee shall review and make recommendations on legislation, public rules and/or policies related to any of the county's equal opportunity, affirmative action, disability, access minority and women business utilization programs.

C. Economic development. This committee shall review and make recommendations for enhancing the opportunities for utilization and participation of minority and women businesses on county contracts and other related businesses on county contracts and other related business development activities.

D. Community relations. This committee shall recommend methods for educating concerned communities and the public at large on the work of the commission and King County in advancing human and civil rights for all in the region and shall establish liaison with other regional and civil rights commissioners. (Ord. 12058 § 5, 1995: Ord. 2647 § 7, 1976).

3.10.060 Staff. Appropriate staff for the commission will be appointed by the county executive. (Ord. 12058 § 6, 1995: Ord. 6891 § 3, 1984: Ord. 2647 § 8, 1976).

3.10.070 Meetings. The civil rights commission shall meet no less often than quarterly and as designated by the chair if deemed necessary. A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of all voting commissioners. (Ord. 12058 § 7, 1995: Ord. 6891 § 4, 1984).

Chapter 3.12
PERSONNEL SYSTEM

Sections:

- 3.12.005 Statement of intent.
- 3.12.010 Definitions.
- 3.12.020 General provisions - conflicts of interest.
- 3.12.030 Classes of employees.
- 3.12.040 Benefits.
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- 3.12.310 Tenure.
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- 3.12.330 Administration - responsibility.

- 3.12.335 Supported employment.
- 3.12.340 Administration - employer-employee relations.
- 3.12.350 Administration - personnel guidelines.
- 3.12.360 Effect of collective bargaining.
- 3.12.365 Effect on sheriff's civil service.
- 3.12.400 Volunteers for the county.

3.12.005 Statement of intent. King County recognizes that, in the past, employment and contracting practices did not afford equal opportunities for women, minorities and persons with disabilities, and that such practices have resulted in the underrepresentation of such persons in county employment, in employment by county contractors, and in the utilization of minority-owned and women-owned businesses in county contracts. King County also recognizes that many of the causes of this underrepresentation are societal in nature, and beyond the scope and power of the county to remedy on its own. Nevertheless, King County is determined to be a leader in the implementation of civil rights and compliance policies and programs which will remedy the effects of past discrimination and set the county on an affirmative action path. (Ord. 9088 § 1, 1989).

3.12.010 Definitions. For the purposes of this chapter, all words shall have their ordinary and usual meanings except those defined in this section which shall have, in addition, the following meanings. In the event of conflict, the specific definitions set forth in this section shall presumptively, but not conclusively, prevail.

A. "Administrative interns" are employees who are also enrolled full-time during the regular school year in a program of education, internship or apprenticeship. All administrative internships in executive departments shall be approved by the manager. Administrative interns are exempt from the career service under Section 550 of the charter.

B. "Appointing authority" means the county council, the executive, chief officers of executive departments and administrative offices, or division managers having authority to appoint or to remove persons from positions in the county service.

C. "Basis of merit" means the value, excellence or superior quality of an individual's work performance, as determined by a structured process comparing the employee's performance against defined standards and, where possible, the performance of other employees of the same or similar class.

D. "Board" means the county personnel board established by Section 540 of the charter.

E. "Budgetary furlough" means a circumstance in which projected county revenues are determined to be insufficient to fully fund county agency operations and, in order either to achieve budget savings or to meet unallocated budget reductions, which are commonly known as contras, or both, cost savings may be achieved through reduction in days or hours of service, resulting in placing an employee for one or more days in a temporary furlough status without duties and without pay.

F. "Career service employee" means a county employee appointed to a career service position as a result of the selection procedure provided for in this chapter, and who has completed the probationary period.

G. "Career service position" means all positions in the county service except for those that are designated by Section 550 of the charter as follows: all elected officers; the county auditor, the clerk and all other employees of the county council; the county administrative officer; the chief officer of each executive department and administrative office; the members of all boards and commissions; the chief economist and other employees of the office economic and financial analysis; the chief economist and other employees of the office of economic and financial analysis; administrative assistants for the executive and one administrative assistant each for the county administrative officer, the county auditor, the county assessor, the chief officer of each executive department and administrative office and for each board and commission; a chief deputy for the county assessor; one confidential secretary each for the executive, the chief officer of each executive department and administrative office, and for each administrative assistant specified in this section; all employees of those officers who are exempted from the provisions of this chapter by the state constitution; persons employed in a professional or scientific capacity to conduct a special inquiry, investigation or examination; part-time and temporary employees; administrative interns; election precinct officials; all persons serving the county without compensation; physicians; surgeons; dentists; medical interns; and student nurses and inmates employed by county hospitals, tuberculosis sanitariums and health departments of the county.

Divisions in executive departments and administrative offices as determined by the county council shall be considered to be executive departments for the purpose of determining the applicability of Section 550 of the charter.

All part-time employees shall be exempted from career service membership except, all part-time employees employed at least half time or more, as defined by ordinance, shall be members of the career service.

H. "Charter" means the King County Charter, as amended.

I. "Child" means a biological, adopted or foster child, a stepchild, a legal ward or a child of an employee standing in loco parentis to the child, who is:

1. Under eighteen years of age; or
2. Eighteen years of age or older and incapable of self care because of a mental or physical disability.

J. "Class" or "classification" means a position or group of positions, established under authority of this chapter, sufficiently similar in respect to the duties, responsibilities and authority thereof, that the same descriptive title may be used to designate each position allocated to the class.

K. "Classification plan" means the arrangement of positions into classifications together with specifications describing each classification.

L. "Compensatory time" means time off granted with pay in lieu of pay for work performed either on an authorized overtime basis or work performed on a holiday that is normally scheduled as a day off. Such compensatory time shall be granted on the basis of time and one-half.

M. "Competitive employment" means a position established in the county budget and that will require at least twenty-six weeks of service per year as the work schedule established for the position.

N. "Council" means the county council as established by Article 2 of the charter.

O. "County" means King County and any other organization that is legally governed by the county with respect to personnel matters.

P. "Developmental disability" means a developmental disability, as defined in RCW 71A.10.020(2), as amended, attributable to mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism or other neurological or other condition of an individual found by the secretary of the Washington state Department of Social and Health Services, or the secretary's designee, to be closely related to mental retardation or to require treatment similar to that required for individuals with mental retardation, which disability originates before the individual attains age eighteen, that has continued or can be expected to continue indefinitely and that constitutes a substantial handicap for the individual.

Q. "Direct cost" means the cost aggregate of the actual weighted average cost of insured benefits, less any administrative cost therefor. Any payments to part-time and temporary employees under this chapter shall not include any administrative overhead charges applicable to administrative offices and executive departments.

R. "Director" means the manager of the human resources division*.

S. "Division" means the human resources division or its successor agency*.

T. "Domestic partners" are two people in a domestic partnership, one of whom is a county employee.

U. "Domestic partnership" is a relationship whereby two people:

1. Have a close personal relationship;
2. Are each other's sole domestic partner and are responsible for each other's common welfare;
3. Share the same regular and permanent residence;
4. Are jointly responsible for basic living expenses which means the cost of basic food, shelter and any other expenses of a domestic partner that are paid at least in part by a program or benefit for which the partner qualified because of the domestic partnership. The individuals need not contribute equally or jointly to the cost of these expenses as long as they agree that both are responsible for the cost;
5. Are not married to anyone;
6. Are each eighteen years of age or older;
7. Are not related by blood closer than would bar marriage in the state of Washington;
8. Were mentally competent to consent to contract when the domestic partnership began.

V. "Employed at least half time or more" means employed in a regular position that has an established work schedule of not less than one-half the number of hours of the full-time positions in the work unit in which the employee is assigned, or when viewed on a calendar year basis, nine hundred ten hours or more in a work unit in which a work week of more than thirty-five but less than forty hours is standard or one thousand forty hours or more in a work unit in which a forty hour work week is standard. If the standard work week hours within a work unit varies (for instance, employees working both thirty five and forty hours), the manager, in consultation with the department, is responsible for determining what hour threshold will apply.

W. "Employee" means any person who is employed in a career service position or exempt position.

X. "Executive" means the county executive, as established by Article 3 of the charter.

Y. "Exempt employee" means an employee employed in a position that is not a career service position under Section 550 of the charter. Exempt employees serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

Z. "Exempt position" means any position excluded as a career service position by Section 550 of the charter. Exempt positions are positions to which appointment may be made directly without a competitive hiring process.

AA. "Full-time regular employee" means an employee employed in a full-time regular position and, for full-time career service positions, is not serving a probationary period.

BB. "Full-time regular position" means a regular position that has an established work schedule of not less than thirty-five hours per week in those work units in which a thirty-five hour week is standard, or of not less than forty hours per week in those work units in which a forty-hour week is standard.

CC. "Furlough day" means a day for which an employee shall perform no work and shall receive no pay due to an emergency budget crisis necessitating emergency budget furloughs.

DD. "Furloughed employee" means an employee who is placed in a temporary status without duties and without pay due to a financial emergency necessitating budget reductions.

EE. "Grievance" means an issue raised by an employee relating to the interpretation of rights, benefits, or condition of employment as contained in either the administrative rules or procedures, or both, for the career service.

FF. "Immediate family" means spouse, child, parent, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, domestic partner and the child, parent, sibling, grandparent or grandchild of the spouse or domestic partner.

GG. "Incentive increase" means an increase to an employee's base salary within the assigned pay range, based on demonstrated performance.

HH. "Integrated work setting" means a work setting with no more than eight persons with developmental disabilities or with the presence of a sensory, mental or physical handicap as specified in K.C.C. 3.12.180. This definition refers to all county offices, field locations and other work sites at which supported employees work alongside employees who are not persons with development disabilities employed in permanent county positions.

II. "Life-giving and life-saving procedures" means a medically-supervised procedure involving the testing, sampling, or donation of blood, organs, fluids, tissues and other human body components for the purposes of donation without compensation to a person for a medically necessary treatment.

JJ. "Manager" means the manager of the human resources division* or its successor agency.

KK. "Marital status" means the presence or absence of a marital relationship and includes the status of married, separated, divorced, engaged, widowed, single or cohabiting.

LL. "Part-time employee" means an employee employed in a part-time position. Under Section 550 of the charter, part-time employees are not members of the career service.

MM. "Part-time position" means an other than a regular position in which the part-time employee is employed less than half time, that is less than nine hundred ten hours in a calendar year in a work unit in which a thirty-five hour work week is standard or less than one thousand forty hours in a calendar year in a work unit in which a forty-hour work week is standard, except as provided elsewhere in this chapter. Where the standard work week falls between thirty-five and forty hours, the manager, in consultation with the department, is responsible for determining what hour threshold will apply. Part-time position excludes administrative intern.

NN. "Part-time regular employee" means an employee employed in a part-time regular position and, for part-time career service positions, is not serving a probationary period. Under Section 550 of the charter, such part-time regular employees are members of the career service.

OO. "Part-time regular position" means a regular position in which the part-time regular employee is employed for at least nine hundred ten hours but less than a full-time basis in a calendar year in a work unit in which a thirty-five hour work week is standard or for at least one thousand forty hours but less than a full-time basis in a calendar year in a work unit in which a forty-hour work week is standard. Where the standard work week falls between thirty-five and forty hours, the manager, in consultation with the department, is responsible for determining what hour threshold will apply.

PP. "Pay plan" means a systematic schedule of numbered pay ranges with a minimum, maximum and intermediate steps for each pay range, a schedule of assignment of each classification to a numbered pay range and rules for administration.

QQ. "Pay range" means one or more pay rates representing the minimum, maximum and intermediate steps assigned to a classification.

RR. "Pay range adjustment" means the adjustment of the numbered pay range of a classification to another numbered pay range in the schedule based on a classification change, competitive pay data or other significant factors.

SS. "Personnel guidelines" means only those operational procedures promulgated by the manager necessary to implement personnel policies or requirements previously stipulated by ordinance or the charter. Such personnel guidelines shall be applicable only to employees assigned to executive departments and administrative agencies.

TT. "Position" means a group of current duties and responsibilities assigned by competent authority requiring the employment of one person.

UU. "Probationary employee" means an employee serving a probationary period in a regular career service. Probationary employees are temporary employees and excluded from career service under Section 550 of the charter.

VV. "Probationary period" means a period of time, as determined by the manager, constituting the final step in the competitive screening process for career service or for promotion from one career service position to another. An appointment to the career service, whether following successful completion of an initial probationary period of county employment or a promotional probationary period, shall not be final unless the employee successfully completes this probationary period.

WW. "Probationary period salary increase" means a within-range salary increase from one step to the next highest step upon satisfactory completion of the probationary period.

XX. "Promotion" means the movement of an employee to a position in a classification having a higher maximum salary.

YY. "Provisional appointment" means an appointment made in the absence of a list of candidates certified as qualified by the manager. Only the manager may authorize a provisional appointment. An appointment to this status is limited to six months.

ZZ. "Provisional employee" means an employee serving by provisional appointment in a regular career service. Provisional employees are temporary employees and excluded from career service under Section 550 of the charter.

AAA. "Recruiting step" means the first step of the salary range allocated to a class unless otherwise authorized by the executive.

BBB. "Regular position" means a position established in the county budget and identified within a budgetary unit's authorized full time equivalent (FTE) level as set out in the budget detail report.

CCC. "Salary or pay rate" means an individual dollar amount that is one of the steps in a pay range paid to an employee based on the classification of the position occupied.

DDD. "Section" means an agency's budget unit comprised of a particular project program or line of business as described in the budget detail plan for the previous fiscal period as attached to the adopted appropriation ordinance or as modified by the most recent supplemental appropriations ordinance. This definition is not intended to create an organization structure for any agency.

EEE. "Serious health condition" means an illness or injury, impairment or physical or mental condition that involves one or more of the following:

1. An acute episode that requires more than three consecutive calendar days of incapacity and either multiple treatments by a licensed health care provider or at least one treatment plus follow-up care such as a course of prescription medication; and any subsequent treatment or period of incapacity relating to the same condition;
2. A chronic ailment continuing over an extended period of time that requires periodic visits for treatment by a health care provider and that has the ability to cause either continuous or intermittent episodes of incapacity;
3. In-patient care in a hospital, hospice or residential medical care facility or related out-patient follow-up care;
4. An ailment requiring multiple medical interventions or treatments by a health care provider that, if not provided, would likely result in a period of incapacity for more than three consecutive calendar days;
5. A permanent or long-term ailment for which treatment might not be effective but that requires medical supervision by a health care provider; or
6. Any period of incapacity due to pregnancy or prenatal care.

FFF. "Temporary employee" means an employee employed in a temporary position and in addition, includes an employee serving a probationary period or is under provisional appointment. Under Section 550 of the charter, temporary employees shall not be members of the career service.

GGG. "Temporary position" means a position that is not a regular position as defined in this chapter and excludes administrative intern. Temporary positions include both term-limited temporary positions as defined in this chapter and short-term (normally less than six months) temporary positions in which a temporary employee works less than nine hundred ten hours in a calendar year in a work unit in which a thirty-five hour work week is standard or less than one thousand forty hours in a calendar year in a work unit in which a forty hour work week is standard, except as provided elsewhere in this chapter. Where the standard work week falls between thirty-five and forty hours, the manager, in consultation with the department, is responsible for determining what hour threshold will apply.

HHH. "Term-limited temporary employee" means a temporary employee who is employed in a term-limited temporary position. Term-limited temporary employees are not members of the career service. Term-limited temporary employees may not be employed in term-limited temporary positions longer than three years beyond the date of hire, except that for grant-funded projects capital improvement projects and information systems technology projects the maximum period may be extended up to five years upon approval of the manager. The manager shall maintain a current list of all term-limited temporary employees by department.

III. "Term-limited temporary position" means a temporary position with work related to a specific grant, capital improvement project, information systems technology project or other nonroutine, substantial body of work, for a period greater than six months. In determining whether a body of work is appropriate for a term-limited temporary position, the appointing authority will consider the following:

1. Grant-funded projects: These positions will involve projects or activities that are funded by special grants for a specific time or activity. These grants are not regularly available to or their receipt predictable by the county;

2. Information systems technology projects: These positions will be needed to plan and implement new information systems projects for the county. Term-limited temporary positions may not be used for ongoing maintenance of systems that have been implemented;

3. Capital improvement projects: These positions will involve the management of major capital improvement projects. Term-limited temporary positions may not be used for ongoing management of buildings or facilities once they have been built;

4. Miscellaneous projects: Other significant and substantial bodies of work may be appropriate for term-limited temporary positions. These bodies of work must be either nonroutine projects for the department or related to the initiation or cessation of a county function, project or department;

5. Seasonal positions: These are positions with work for more than six consecutive months, half-time or more, with total hours of at least nine hundred ten in a calendar year in a work unit in which a thirty-five hour work week is standard or at least one thousand forty hours in a calendar year in a work unit in which a forty hour work week is standard, that due to the nature of the work have predictable periods of inactivity exceeding one month. Where the standard work week falls between thirty-five and forty hours, the manager, in consultation with the department, is responsible for determining what hour threshold will apply; and

6. Temporary placement in regular positions: These are positions used to back fill regular positions for six months or more due to a career service employee's absence such as extended leave or assignment on any of the foregoing time-limited projects.

All appointments to term-limited temporary positions will be made by the appointing authority in consultation with the manager before the appointment of term-limited temporary employees.

JJJ. "Volunteer for the county" means an individual who performs service for the county for civic, charitable or humanitarian reasons, without promise, expectation or receipt of compensation from the county for services rendered and who is accepted as a volunteer by the county, except emergency service worker volunteers as described by chapter 38.52 RCW. A "volunteer for the county" may receive reasonable reimbursement of expenses or an allowance for expenses actually incurred without losing his or her status as a volunteer. "Volunteer for the county" includes, but is not limited to, a volunteer serving as a board member, officer, commission member, volunteer intern or direct service volunteer.

KKK. "Volunteer intern" means volunteers who are also enrolled full-time during the regular school year in a program of education, internship or apprenticeship who are receiving scholastic credit or scholastic recognition for participating in the internship.

LLL. "Work study student" means a student enrolled or accepted for enrollment at a post-secondary institution who, according to a system of need analysis approved by the higher education coordinating board, demonstrates a financial inability, either parental, familial or personal, to bear the total cost of education for any semester or quarter. (Ord. 16962 § 3, 2010: Ord. 16735 § 3, 2009: Ord. 16640 § 2, 2009: Ord. 16391 § 18, 2009: Ord. 16339 § 3, 2008: Ord. 16054 § 1, 2008: Ord. 14801 § 2, 2003: Ord. 14233 § 1, 2001: Ord. 13377 § 2, 1998: Ord. 12943 § 1, 1997: Ord. 12498 § 3, 1996: Ord. 12014 § 5, 1995).

***Reviser's note: The division's name is the human resources management division (Ordinance 14199, 2001).**

3.12.020 General provisions - conflicts of interest.

A. All employees shall hold their positions subject to the conditions stated in the charter, this chapter, other applicable ordinances, and the personnel guidelines.

B. No employee may engage in any occupation or outside activity which is incompatible with the proper discharge of official county duties or which would impair independence of judgment or action in the performance of such official duties. All employees are specifically referred to the conflict of interest provisions contained in K.C.C. 3.04.

C. The employment of members of the same family or other close relatives of employees shall not be limited except where required by business or job-related necessity. For purposes of this section, "business or job-related necessity" includes those circumstances where the county's actions are based upon a compelling and essential need to avoid business or job-related conflicts of interest, or to avoid the reality or appearance of improper influence or favor. For purposes of this section, "same family or other close relatives" means the mother, father, child, sister, brother, wife, husband, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, grandparent, grandchild, in-laws, domestic partner, children of a domestic partner and relatives of a domestic partner to the same extent such relatives would be included in this paragraph if the employee and the domestic partner were married. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent or impede the advancement or promotion of any person employed by the county prior to the effective date of this ordinance. (Ord. 12014 § 6, 1995).

3.12.030 Classes of employees. County employees shall either be members of the career service or be exempt from the career service. (Ord. 9498 § 3, 1990: Ord. 4324 § 7, 1979).

3.12.040 Benefits.

A. Full-time regular, part-time regular, provisional, probationary and term-limited temporary employees shall receive the leave benefits provided in this chapter.

B. Full-time regular, part-time regular, provisional, probationary and term-limited temporary employees and their spouse or domestic partner, each of their dependent children, and each of the dependent children of their spouse or domestic partner shall be eligible for medical, dental, life, disability, and vision benefits, except in those instances where contrary provisions have been agreed to in the collective bargaining process and to the extent such benefits are available through insurers selected by the county. The director shall establish specific provisions governing eligibility for these benefits as part of the personnel guidelines and consistent with budget requirements. Such provisions may include waiting periods for employees newly-hired to the county.

C. Part-time and temporary employees, other than probationary, provisional and term-limited temporary employees, who exceed the calendar year working hours threshold defined in this chapter shall receive compensation in lieu of leave benefits at the rate of 15% of gross pay for all hours worked, paid retroactive to the first hour of employment and for each hour worked thereafter. The employee will also receive a one-time only payment in an amount equal to the direct cost of three months of insured benefits, as determined by the director, and, in lieu of insured benefits, an amount equal to the direct cost to the county for each employee for whom insured benefits are provided, prorated to reflect the affected employee's normal work week, for each hour worked thereafter. Such additional compensation shall continue until termination of employment or hire into a full-time regular, part-time regular or term-limited position. Further, employees receiving pay in lieu of insured benefits may elect to receive the medical component of the insured benefit plan, with the cost to be deducted from their gross pay; provided, that an employee who so elects shall remain in the selected plan until termination of employment, hire into a full-time regular, part-time regular, or term-limited position, or service of an appropriate notice of change or cancellation during the employee benefits annual open-enrollment.

Part-time and temporary employees, other than probationary, provisional and term-limited temporary employees, who exceed the applicable threshold will also be eligible for cash in lieu of the bus pass benefit provided to regular employees. The value will be determined based on the average annual cost per employee as determined in the adopted budget, prorated to an hourly equivalent based on the employee's normal work week, and will be paid retroactive to the first hour worked and for each hour worked thereafter until termination of employment or hire into a full-time regular, part-time regular, or term limited position. (Ord. 12943 § 2, 1997; Ord. 12014 § 7, 1995).

3.12.042 Dependent care assistance benefit.

A. The county shall offer to those employees who are qualified to receive medical benefits the opportunity to participate in a qualifying Internal Revenue Code Sections 125 and 129 dependent care assistance program. The office of human resources management shall incorporate the dependent care assistance program in its employee flexible benefit program.

B. The costs of administering the dependent care assistance program shall be fully borne by the county and existing and future employee benefits shall not be reduced as a result of the cost of administering the program. Savings in county paid payroll taxes, if any, resulting from this program shall accrue to the county.

C. Non-represented employees who are qualified to receive medical benefits shall be offered the dependent care assistance program whether or not represented employee groups choose to participate in the program. (Ord. 12014 § 8, 1995).

3.12.044 Benefits eligibility for spouse/domestic partner.

A. Affidavit of Marriage/Domestic Partnership. Employees who receive medical, dental, life and disability insurance, and vision benefits shall designate their spouse, their domestic partner, their dependent children and the dependent children of their spouse or domestic partner in an Affidavit of Marriage/Domestic Partnership in order for such spouse, domestic partner and/or children to receive such benefits, to the extent such benefits are available to them. The director shall prescribe the form of the affidavit. In the affidavit, the employee shall:

1. Attest to the following:

a. If married, that he or she is currently married to the individual identified by name on the affidavit, or

b. If participating in a domestic partnership, that:

(1) He or she is currently in a domestic partnership with the individual identified by name on the affidavit, and

(2) He or she meets all the qualifications of a domestic partnership, as defined by this chapter, and

(3) Any prior domestic partnership in which he or she or his or her domestic partner participated with a third party was terminated at least ninety days prior to the date of said affidavit or by the death of that third party, and if such prior domestic partnership had been acknowledged pursuant to this chapter, that notice of the termination of the prior domestic partnership, whether by death of the domestic partner or otherwise, was provided to the county at least ninety days prior to the date of said affidavit;

2. Agree to notify the county if there is a change of the circumstances attested to in the affidavit; and

3. Affirm, under penalty of law, that the assertions in the affidavit are true.

B. Termination of Marriage/Domestic Partnership. Such employee shall provide the county with a notice of termination of marriage/domestic partnership, on a form prescribed by the director, upon dissolution of a marriage or termination of a domestic partnership, within thirty days of termination of the marriage or domestic partnership. A marriage shall be deemed terminated as provided under state law. A domestic partnership shall be deemed terminated:

1. When the domestic partners no longer meet one or more of the qualifications of a domestic partnership, as defined by this chapter; or

2. Upon the death of a domestic partner.

C. Confidentiality. All affidavits of marriage/domestic partnership, notices of termination of marriage/domestic partnership, and any information contained in said affidavits submitted to the county shall be confidential and subject to disclosure only upon express written authorization by the persons identified in the forms or if otherwise required by law. (Ord. 12014 § 9, 1995).

3.12.050 Career service system. All career service employees shall be members of the county career service mandated by Section 510 of the charter. The recruitment, selection and promotion of such employees shall be competitive and shall be based on merit. Career service employees shall have such rights, working conditions and benefits as are specified by this chapter. (Ord. 12014 § 10, 1995).

3.12.060 Assumption of functions and personnel of another governmental entity. If the functions of another governmental entity are assumed by the county, and if former employees of that entity become county employees, then the director shall determine whether such employees will be members of or exempt from the career service. In making this determination, the director shall apply the standards contained in Section 550 of the charter. The status of each employee shall be equivalent to that which the employee would have had, had he or she been a county employee during the term of the former employment. Nothing in this section shall derogate from the county's power to eliminate positions and lay off employees because of lack of work, lack of funds or considerations of operational efficiency. (Ord. 12014 § 11, 1995).

3.12.080 Appointing authorities. Appointment of county employees within the executive branch shall be accomplished by the executive, department directors and division managers. In all cases, the appointing authority shall have the power to remove. The appointing authority shall be responsible for the merit evaluation of all employees under that authority. (Ord. 4324 § 14, 1979).

3.12.090 Selection procedure.

A. The director shall establish examination selection procedures for filling existing and anticipated vacant positions in the career service. Examinations may be open or promotional, depending upon which will best serve the interests of the county.

B. All examinations for career service positions shall be competitive. (Ord. 12014 § 12, 1995).

3.12.100 Probationary period.

A. There shall be a probationary period during which time a probationary employee shall be evaluated by the appointing authority to determine qualification for entry into the career service. The probationary period shall be determined by the director, but shall be not less than six months or more than one year of actual service, and shall be served by those employees who have been newly hired, reemployed, transferred to a different position, or promoted or demoted. A furloughed employee's probationary period shall not be extended as a result of a budgetary furlough.

B. A probationary employee may be separated from county service at any time during the probationary period without right of appeal to the personnel board. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section, an employee who does not successfully complete the probationary period in a position to which he or she had been promoted or transferred may be restored to his or her former position. Such restoration is not mandatory, but is optional at the discretion of the former appointing authority within the limits of available authorized positions. Such restoration shall include restoration of the employee's former salary and all other benefits to which he or she would have been entitled if the promotion or transfer had not occurred. (Ord. 16735 § 3, 2009; Ord. 16339 § 4, 2008; Ord. 12014 § 13, 1995).

3.12.110 Training.

A. It shall be the policy of the county to provide, within budgeted appropriations, training opportunities for employees. The objective of the training policy shall be guided by, but not limited to, the overall objectives of encouraging and motivating employees to improve their personal capabilities in performance of their assigned job duties.

B. The director shall be responsible for planning and executing an adequate training program for employees.

C. The county shall not reimburse employees for unauthorized training.

D. Employees wishing to complete educational programs may request a leave of absence without pay for this purpose. (Ord. 12014 § 14, 1995).

3.12.120 Working conditions.

A. Nothing contained in this chapter shall prevent, relieve or otherwise excuse any county officer or employee from the performance of any duty imposed upon him or her by any other law of this county, or from the rendering of service at such times and places as are necessary in order to properly perform the functions of his or her office or employment.

B. Except as otherwise provided by ordinance, the official workday shall consist of eight hours of work for all full-time regular and full-time probationary employees. The lunch hour shall not be considered as part of the workday. The official workday for other employees shall be determined by the director. In the case of service reductions resulting in a budgetary furlough, departments may reduce work hours or county offices may be closed

C. Except as otherwise provided by ordinance, the official workweek shall consist of five working days for all full-time regular and full-time probationary employees. The official workweek for other employees shall be determined by the director. In the case of service reductions resulting in a budgetary furlough, county offices may be closed, resulting in the reduction of the workweek.

D. The county recognizes that there is an occasional need for an employee to return to work outside his or her normal workday. The personnel guidelines shall contain procedures relating to call duty.

E. The county recognizes a responsibility for action regarding on-the-job injuries. The personnel guidelines shall contain procedures relating to on-the-job injury.

F. A career service employee who accepts an appointment to an exempt position effective on or after January 1, 1996, and which position and appointment resulted from the reorganization of the executive branch as reflected in the creation of certain new positions contained in Attachment A to Ordinance 12013 shall retain his or her career service status and rights while holding such exempt position and have the restoration rights set forth in this section. This provision is not intended to provide the career service employee with a right to the exempt position. But, such employee, if selected for the exempt position, could be terminated from the position only for just cause.

G. A career service employee who accepts a transfer or promotion to an exempt position before December 1, 1979, shall, upon separation from the exempt position, be allowed to re-enter career service at a position comparable in terms of responsibilities and salary or wage (including normal cost-of-living increases) to the career service position formerly held by the employee. A career service employee accepting such a transfer or promotion on or after December 1, 1979, shall have such a right to restoration, but only if:

1. The right to restoration is exercised within four calendar years from the effective date of the transfer or promotion to an exempt position; and

2.a. the former appointing authority, at the appointing authority's discretion, approves the restoration within the limits of available authorized positions; or

b. a different appointing authority, having jurisdiction over comparable authorized positions, and at the different appointing authority's discretion, approves the restoration within the limits of available authorized positions.

H. Matters involving wages and hours, including but not limited to minimum wage and overtime compensation, shall be determined in accordance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations.

I. Overtime work may be authorized by the department director where necessary to maintain or perform vital county services and shall be paid in accordance with appropriate state and federal law. (Ord. 16735 § 5, 2009: Ord. 16339 § 5, 2008: Ord. 12014 § 15, 1995).

3.12.123 Weapons. The council desires to continue the weapons policy established by the Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle prior to assumption of metropolitan functions on January 1, 1994 by the county and continued by the council during the 1994 - 1995 transition period. The council recognizes that employees in the transit division of the department of transportation interact daily with the public in providing public transportation services, are expected to avoid any potentially volatile situation or confrontation, and are required to contact the appropriate authority for assistance when necessary. In conjunction with the behavior expected of such employees, it is also the policy that the use, threatened use, or possession of a weapon concealed, licensed or otherwise, by such an employee while in the performance of his/her official duties or while on county property is strictly prohibited and will result in termination. This policy does not apply to commissioned police officers under contract with or employed by the county for investigatory, undercover or enforcement reasons. (Ord. 12014 § 34, 1995).

3.12.125 Change in work week -- adjustment to sick leave and vacation accruals.

A. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, in the event the number of hours in the standard work week of a position occupied by a full-time regular employee, part-time regular employee or, term-limited temporary employee is increased, the sick leave and vacation leave accruals of such employee at the time of the increase shall be adjusted upward so as to insure that the equivalent number of sick leave and vacation leave days accrued does not change. For example, if the standard work week of such a position is increased from thirty-five to forty hours, and if at the time of such change the employee occupying the position had accrued seven hours of sick leave, the sick leave accrual of that employee would be adjusted upward to eight hours. This section shall apply to all employees eligible for leave benefits occupying positions where the standard work week of the position was increased on or after July 1, 1991. After such increase, such employees shall accrue vacation and sick leave in accordance with the otherwise applicable provisions of K.C.C. chapter 3.12.

B. Separate accounts shall be maintained for any vacation or sick leave accrued before an increase in the number of work-week hours. The "adjusted leave account" shall be used for leave accrued before an increase in the number of work-week hours. The "unadjusted leave account" shall be used for leave accrued subsequent to an increase in the number of work-week hours. Leave in the adjusted leave account shall be used first.

C. In the event the number of work-week hours is reduced for any employee whose vacation and sick leave accruals have been adjusted upward under the terms of this section, the remaining hours in the adjusted leave account shall be reduced in the same proportion as the work-week hours are reduced. Under no circumstances shall the adjusted leave account be reduced by a greater proportion than the proportion of the previous upward adjustment. Any leave accrued in the unadjusted leave account shall not be affected by this reduction.

D. No adjustment to reduce sick leave or vacation accruals for a furloughed employee shall be made as a result of a budgetary furlough. (Ord. 16735 § 6, 2009: Ord. 16339 § 6, 2008: Ord. 12943 § 3, 1997: Ord. 12077 § 3, 1995).

3.12.130 Salary ordinance. The executive shall prepare and submit a recommended salary ordinance to the council, which shall adopt a salary ordinance. The salary ordinance shall establish a standardized salary schedule for all classifications, excluding classifications for temporary employees other than provisional employees and probationary employees, part-time employees, administrative interns, elected officials and employees of the council. (Ord. 12014 § 16, 1995).

3.12.140 Cost-of-living increase. Cost-of-living increases as passed by the council annually for county employees shall include elected officials whose salaries are not set by the state. (Ord. 4324 § 38, 1979).

3.12.150 Compensation other than salary and wages. Compensation may include items other than salary and wages, including but not limited to rent subsidized housing, utility costs, meals at reduced rates. (Ord. 4324 § 37, 1979).

3.12.160 Unemployment compensation. All services performed for the county by county employees subsequent to December 31, 1977, shall be deemed to be services in employment subject to the provisions of the State Unemployment Compensation Law, RCW Title 50, as amended. The unemployment compensation program of the county shall be administered, with respect to such services in employment, in accordance with the mandatory provisions of RCW Title 50, as amended. In the event that the mandatory coverage feature of state law ceases, through judicial decision or otherwise, to be in compliance with valid and constitutional federal law, the county may legislate a self-insured form of unemployment compensation. (Ord. 4324 § 34, 1979).

3.12.170 Equal pay for equal work—policy--findings. It is the general policy of the county that compensation for all county employees shall be equitably provided on the basis of equal pay for equal work consistent with state and federal law. The council finds that federal, state and local laws against discrimination provide adequate and appropriate remedies for any pay that is unequal on the basis of unlawful discrimination. Consistent with state and federal law, the equal pay policy in this section is intended to set forth general county policy for equitable pay in county government. Pay for represented employees is determined in accordance with the collective bargaining procedures established by law. This section shall not affect the collective bargaining position of the exclusive bargaining representatives of any employee or of the county. This general equal pay policy does not constitute an express or implied contract; it is a general statement of county policy that cannot form the basis of a private right of action. (Ord. 14801 § 1, 2003; Ord. 12014 § 17, 1995).

3.12.180 Equality of county employment - reporting requirements.

A. For purposes of this section:

1. "County work force" means persons employed by King County executive departments;
2. "Job group" means a grouping of jobs as defined by the United States Department of Labor;
3. "Labor force availability rate" means the percentage of persons of color or women with requisite job skills in King County as reported by the United States Census Bureau;
4. "Persons of color" means persons in each of the following groups: Blacks; Hispanics; Asian/Pacific Islanders; and Native Americans; and
5. "Placement goal" shall equal the labor force availability rate.

B. The county is an equal opportunity employer and shall carry out federal, state and local laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status or the presence of a sensory, mental or physical disability. Further, it is the intent of the county to ensure that employment is based on the principle of equal opportunity and that such a principle shall be implemented in all county personnel-related actions including, but not limited to, recruitment, hiring, testing, training, promotion, compensation, transfer and all other terms and conditions of employment in all job classifications.

C. In order to comply with federal contracting requirements and to ensure equal opportunity for all persons, all county departments shall establish and maintain an effective affirmative action plan, as adopted by the council by ordinance. Such an affirmative action plan shall promote the objectives of public policy set forth in applicable federal and state laws relating to nondiscrimination, equal employment opportunity, affirmative action and civil rights. Specifically, the plan shall promote the objectives of the State Law Against Discrimination, chapter 49.60 RCW (applicable parts), and provisions of the Washington Administrative Code adopted thereunder. As part of the county's affirmative action plan, the executive shall submit by June 1 of every fifth year, commencing with 2007, a proposed ordinance for the approval of an affirmative action plan pertaining to executive county departments and agencies to be approved, or modified, by the council by ordinance, or rejected by the council, by January 1 following the plan's submittal to council. The affirmative action plan shall include:

1. Information related to county work force statistics, which shall include:
 - a. a comparison of labor force availability for women and persons of color to the county's actual labor force for women and persons of color as a summary across all departments. The plan shall also compare labor force availability for women and persons of color to the county's actual labor force for women and persons of color by departments and job group. The plan shall also summarize the percentage of total goal setting areas which meet or exceed the labor force availability rate;
 - b. a summary of the county work force by job group and by race and gender;
 - c. a discussion of the methodology by which the labor force availability and county work force data is developed and a listing of the county job classifications that are included in each job group;
 - d. the total number of persons with disabilities in each job group within the county work force and the total number of persons with disabilities by department voluntarily reported by individuals for equal employment opportunity affirmative action purposes. The plan shall include the number of positions for which an accommodation is currently in effect;
 - e. the total number and percentage of employees by salary range and by race and gender. Salary ranges shall be reported in a manner consistent with the equal employment opportunity data reported by the United States Census Bureau. The plan shall include data reported by the United States Census bureau on the total number and percentage of the labor force working in King County by salary range and by race and gender;
 - f. an analysis by race and gender of the positions filled by promotion during the prior plan period. For the purposes of this subsection, "promotions" means those instances in which an individual advances in salary level because the individual changed to a position with a higher pay range assignment;
 - g. a summary by year for the prior plan period on executive branch discrimination complaints by basis of complaint and complaint status. The summary shall also include data by department on the number of complaints filed by complaint type and the number of people filing complaints; and
 - h. historical data on the county work force by race and gender. Historical data before 2007 is required only to the extent it is readily available;
2. Placement goals for the plan period. For those job groups within departments where the actual number of women and persons of color employed is less than projected by labor force availability, a placement goal by race and gender shall be established for the entire plan period. A placement goal shall equal the labor force availability rate. Placement goals are used to measure progress toward achieving equal employment opportunity. Placement goals may not be quotas, which must be met, nor do they create set-asides for specific groups. Placement goals may not be used to supersede merit selection principles. Further, existence of a placement goals does not constitute evidence of discrimination. If a placement goal has been established, the plan shall identify the labor force availability rate;
3. Implementation plans for departments. Each implementation plan shall:
 - a. identify the activities proposed each year during the plan period to meet the department's placement goals. The plan shall discuss how the proposed activities will help the department achieve its placement goals;
 - b. identify the activities proposed during the plan period by year to recruit, retain and promote women and persons of color in the work force; and
 - c. identify the specific activities during the plan period, by year, that each department will undertake to increase its hiring, retention and promotion of persons with disabilities; and

4. A summary of the results of the prior affirmative action plan, which shall include:

a. A description of the progress of each department in completing the activities listed in subsection C.3. a. through c. of this section proposed in the previous implementation plan. The outcomes of each activity shall be reported. The human resources management division shall provide an evaluation of the effectiveness of each department's implementation activities during the plan period;

b. the status of each five-year placement goal established in the prior affirmative action plan. For each identified placement goal, the status report shall report the:

- (1) labor force availability rate;
- (2) total number of positions filled for the corresponding job group within a department;
- (3) of the total number reported under subsection C.4.b.(2) of this section, the number of positions that were filled by each race and gender category; and
- (4) an actual hiring rate for each race and gender category calculated by dividing the number of positions filled by the number of positions filled by each race and gender category; and

c. a separate listing of those placement goals for the plan period that were not achieved. Placement goals are considered not achieved when the actual hiring rate is less than the availability rate for the overall plan period. For each placement goal not achieved, the plan shall provide an analysis of why the goals were not met including whether the planned implementation activities were completed. Placement goals shall only be considered not achieved in those instances in which the total number of hires is large enough such that it is statistically reasonable to expect under conditions of equal employment opportunity that the number of hires by race and gender will reflect work force availability.

D. A progress report on each year's placement goals and implementation plans shall be delivered to the council annually on June 1. Eleven copies of the report shall be filed with the clerk of the council, for distribution to all councilmembers. For each category where a placement goal is established, the following shall be reported:

1. Labor force availability rates as proposed in the affirmative action plan by department, job group, race and gender;
2. Data by department and job group of the total number of positions filled;
3. For each department and job group, the number of positions that were filled by each race and gender category;
4. For each department and job group, the percentage of positions that were filled by each race and gender category;
5. A separate listing of placement goals not achieved. Placement goals are considered not achieved when the availability rates are greater than the hiring rates. Placement goals shall only be considered not achieved in those instances in which the total number of hires is large enough such that it is statistically reasonable to expect under conditions of equal employment opportunity that the number of hires by race and gender will reflect work force availability;
6. Beginning in the second year, cumulative data for the plan period for the information required under subsection C. 1. through 5. of this section; and
7. The status of each activity proposed in each department's implementation plan as required by subsection C.3. a. through c. of this section. The progress report shall include updates to the implementation plans in order that the plans consist of more than repeating the same activities which have previously produced inadequate results.

E. The executive shall submit a proposed ordinance approving a revised affirmative action plan to the council within twelve months of the publication of the appropriate data from the ten-year United States census. (Ord. 15777 § 1, 2007: Ord. 12014 § 18, 1995).

3.12.187 Apprenticeship training program.

A. Findings. The King County council finds as a fact that minorities, women and disabled persons are underrepresented in the construction trades. The council also finds as a fact that a major reason for the underrepresentation of minorities, women and disabled persons in the construction trades is the lack of opportunity for those persons to serve apprenticeships in state-approved apprenticeship programs designed to have them earn the hours necessary to reach journey-level status. Further, the council finds that the traditional methods for persons to find opportunities as apprentices in the construction trades serve as a barrier to minorities, women and disabled persons. Therefore, the council finds that the temporary employment of these individuals as construction trade apprentices enrolled in state-approved apprenticeship programs will serve to benefit the public by assisting minority, women and disabled persons gain entry to the construction trades by their earning a portion of the hours needed to reach the journey level while placed with King County.

B. Employment status of apprentices. Notwithstanding any King County ordinance to the contrary, persons who are enrolled in state approved apprenticeship programs and are employed by King County to earn hours to complete such apprenticeship programs, shall be classified as temporary employees. Such person shall be entitled to only such rights, working conditions and benefits as are granted by ordinance to other temporary employees of King County.

C. Agreement as to status - apprentices. All persons who are enrolled in state approved apprenticeship programs and who are employed by King County to earn hours towards completing such programs shall, prior to becoming a temporary employee of King County, sign a sworn statement, in substantially the same form contained in Attachment A to Ordinance 11149¹ and indicating an understanding as to the temporary nature of the employment, the absence of career service rights and entitlements, the right of the county to terminate employment at any time without just cause, the absence of appeal rights for any action pertaining to appointment, promotion, suspension, discipline, reduction in pay or rank, removal and the absence of the right to grieve under any collective bargaining agreement, and recognition and understanding that upon termination of temporary employment no right exists to any career service or other position with King County.

It shall be the responsibility of the office of human resource management to retain the originals of such sworn statements.

D. Severability. If any provision of this section or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the section or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected. (Ord. 11149 § 1-4, 1993).

*Available in the office of the clerk of the council.

3.12.188 Transit bus passes.

A. Employees eligible for leave and insured benefits under this chapter, administrative interns, volunteer interns and work study students and eligible department of transportation retirees as defined in this section shall be issued a transit bus pass entitling the holder to ride without payment of fare on public transportation services operated by or under the authority of the county. In addition, such employees shall be entitled to use the transit bus pass to ride without payment of fare on public transportation services operated by or under the authority of Pierce Transit, Kitsap Transit and Community Transit, subject to agreements with such agencies as may be entered into by the executive. Use of transit bus passes shall be restricted to such employees, administrative interns, volunteer interns, work study students and department of transportation retirees, and any unauthorized use shall, at a minimum, result in forfeiture of the passes. With the exception of administrative interns, volunteer interns and work study students, employees not eligible for leave and insured benefits under this chapter shall not receive transit bus passes or any transit bus pass subsidy.

B. The executive shall cause an appropriate survey to be conducted biennially of the use of public transportation services by county employees and volunteer interns. Based on the results of the survey, projected usage of public transportation services by county employees, the county's commute trip reduction objectives, and other factors determined appropriate by the executive, the executive shall recommend in the annual budget an amount to be paid to the public transportation operating account for transit bus passes. The amount recommended by the executive shall not include any payment for transit bus passes for commissioned police officers, eligible department of transportation retirees and employees whose positions are determined by the director of the department of transportation to be dedicated exclusively to the public transportation function. The final amount to be transferred to the public transportation operating account for transit bus passes shall be determined by the council as part of the annual budget and appropriation process consistent with the requirements of the King County Charter and applicable state law.

C. For purposes of this section, "eligible department of transportation retiree" means an employee eligible for leave and insured benefits under this chapter who:

1. Separates from employment with the county while holding a position in the department of transportation determined by the director of the department of transportation to be dedicated exclusively to the public transportation function; and
2. On the date of the separation is eligible to receive benefits from a retirement system established pursuant to state law. (Ord. 16054 § 2, 2008: Ord. 12933 § 2, 1997: Ord. 12077 § 6, 1995: Ord. 12014 § 36, 1995).

3.12.190 Vacation leave.

A. Beginning January 1, 1996, employees eligible for leave benefits shall accrue vacation leave benefits as described in and further qualified by this section.

Full Years of Service	Annual Leave in Days
Upon hire through end of Year 5	12
Upon beginning of Year 6	15
Upon beginning of Year 9	16
Upon beginning of Year 11	20
Upon beginning of Year 17	21
Upon beginning of Year 18	22
Upon beginning of Year 19	23
Upon beginning of Year 20	24
Upon beginning of Year 21	25
Upon beginning of Year 22	26
Upon beginning of Year 23	27
Upon beginning of Year 24	28
Upon beginning of Year 25	29
Upon beginning of Year 26 and beyond	30

B. Notwithstanding the vacation leave schedule in subsection A. of this section, employees eligible for leave benefits, excluding employees in the former department of metropolitan services, shall accrue vacation leave as follows:

1. Those employees who were employed on or before December 31, 1995, and by that date had completed at least three but less than five full years of service shall begin to accrue fifteen days of vacation leave per year effective January 1, 1996;

2. Those employees who were employed on or before December 31, 1995, and subsequent to that date complete three full years of service shall begin to accrue fifteen days of vacation leave per year effective on the first day of their fourth full year of service.

Beginning on the first day of their sixth full year of service, all such employees shall accrue vacation leave as set forth in subsection A. of this section.

C. Vacation accrual rates for an employee who works other than the full time schedule standard to his or her work unit shall be prorated to reflect his or her normally scheduled work week. No adjustment to vacation accrual rates for a furloughed employee shall be made as a result of a budgetary furlough.

D. Employees eligible for vacation leave shall accrue vacation leave from their date of hire into a benefit eligible position.

E. Employees eligible for vacation leave may accrue up to sixty days vacation leave, prorated to reflect their normally scheduled work day. Those employees shall use vacation leave beyond the maximum accrual amount before December 31 of each year. Failure to use vacation leave beyond the maximum accrual amount will result in forfeiture of the vacation leave beyond the maximum amount unless the appointing authority has approved a carryover of the vacation leave because of cyclical workloads, work assignments or other reasons as may be in the best interests of the county.

F. Exempt employees in regular positions, other than provisional or probationary employees, may take and upon leaving county employment be paid for accrued vacation leave as approved by their appointing authorities.

G. Career service employees, provisional, probationary and term-limited temporary employees, shall not be eligible to take or be paid for vacation leave until they have successfully completed their first six months of county service, and if they leave county employment before successfully completing their first six months of county service, shall forfeit and not be paid for accrued vacation leave.

H. A furloughed employee shall not be eligible to take or be paid for vacation in lieu of taking a budgetary furlough day.

In lieu of the remuneration for fifty percent of unused accrued vacation leave at retirement, the manager of the human resources division, or the manager's designee, may, with equivalent funds and in accordance with the procedures in K.C.C. 3.12.220.F.2.b, provide eligible employees with a voluntary employee beneficiary association plan that provides for reimbursement of retiree and other qualifying medical expenses.

I. An employee who is eligible for leave benefits shall be paid for accrued vacation leave to the employee's date of separation up to the maximum accrual amount if the employee has successfully completed his or her first six months of county service and is in good standing. Except with the written approval of the executive, the position, if vacated by a nonrepresented employee, shall not be filled until salary savings for the position are accumulated in an amount sufficient to pay the cost of the cash out. Payment shall be the accrued vacation leave multiplied by the employee's rate of pay in effect upon the date of leaving county employment less mandatory withholdings.

J. Employees shall not use or be paid for vacation leave until it has accrued and the use or payment is consistent with the provisions of this section.

K. Employees shall not work for compensation for the county in any capacity during the time that the employees are on vacation leave.

L. For employees covered by the overtime requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act, vacation leave may be used in one-half hour increments, at the discretion of the appointing authority.

M. In cases of separation from county employment by death of an employee with accrued vacation leave and who has successfully completed his or her first six months of county service, payment of unused vacation leave up to the maximum accrual amount shall be made to the employee's estate, or, in applicable cases, as provided for by state law, Title 11 RCW. Except with the written approval of the executive, the position, if vacated by a nonrepresented employee, shall not be filled until salary savings for the position are accumulated in an amount sufficient to pay the cost of the cashout.

N. If an employee resigns from a full-time regular or part-time regular position with the county in good standing or is laid off and subsequently returns to county employment within two years from the resignation or layoff, as applicable, the employee's prior county service shall be counted in determining the vacation leave accrual rate under subsection A. of this section. (Ord. 16735 § 7, 2009: Ord. 16592 § 1, 2009: Ord. 16339 § 7, 2008 Ord. 12943 § 4, 1997: Ord. 12422 § 1, 1996: Ord. 12014 § 19, 1995).

3.12.200 Leave - examinations. Employees eligible for leave benefits shall be entitled to necessary time off with pay for the purpose of taking county qualifying or promotional examinations. This shall include time required to complete any required interviews. (Ord. 12943 § 5, 1997: Ord. 12077 § 4, 1995).

3.12.210 Leave - bereavement.

A. Employees eligible for leave benefits shall be entitled to three working days of bereavement leave a year due to death of members of their immediate family. A furloughed employee shall not be eligible to take or be paid for bereavement leave in lieu of taking a budgetary furlough day.

B. Employees who have exhausted their bereavement leave shall be entitled to use sick leave in the amount of three days for each instance of death when death occurs to a member of the employee's immediate family. A furloughed employee shall not be eligible to take or be paid for bereavement sick leave in lieu of taking a budgetary furlough day.

C. In cases of family death where no sick leave benefit is authorized or exists, an employee may be granted leave without pay.

D. In the application of any of subsections A., B. and C. of this section, holidays or regular days off falling within the prescribed period of absence shall not be charged. (Ord. 16735 § 8, 2009: Ord. 16339 § 8, 2008: Ord. 12943 § 6, 1997: Ord. 12052, 1995).

3.12.215 Leave - organ donors.

A.1. The appointing authority shall allow an employee who is eligible for family leave, sick leave, vacation leave or leave of absence without pay who is voluntarily participating as a donor in a life-giving or life-saving procedure such as, but not limited to, a bone marrow transplant, kidney transplant or blood transfusion to take five days paid leave without having the leave charged to family leave, sick leave, vacation leave or leave of absence without pay, but only if the employee:

a. gives the appointing authority reasonable advance notice of the need to take time off from work for the donation of bone marrow, a kidney or other organs or tissue where there is a reasonable expectation that the employee's failure to donate may result in serious illness, injury, pain or the eventual death of the identified recipient; and

b. provides written proof from an accredited medical institution, organization or individual as to the need for the employee to donate bone marrow, a kidney or other organs or tissue or to participate in any other medical procedure where the participation of the donor is unique or critical to a successful outcome.

2. A furloughed employee shall not be eligible to take or be paid for an organ donor leave in lieu of taking a budgetary furlough day.

B. Time off from work for the purposes set out above in excess of five working days shall be subject to existing leave policies in this chapter or in any applicable collective bargaining agreement. (Ord. 16735 § 9, 2009: Ord. 16339 § 9, 2008: Ord. 12014 § 20, 1995).

3.12.218 Leave - smallpox vaccinations.

A. Any employee who is immunized for smallpox and who subsequently misses work for medical reasons related to the smallpox immunization shall be granted paid leave without having such charged to vacation or sick leave for the period the employee is unable to work due to medical complications from the immunization. Paid leave shall be granted if:

1. The employee is a member of one or more categories of individuals covered by a declaration by the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services specifying the administration of smallpox countermeasures.

2. The employee has been authorized by the county to receive the immunization in order to participate in the county's response under Section 304 of the Homeland Security Act.

B. Any part of the leave that is covered by worker's compensation time loss shall be paid from that fund. If the amount of worker's compensation time loss payment is less than the employee's regular net pay, the county will supplement the time loss payment up to the level needed to equal the employee's regular net pay.

C. A furloughed employee shall not be eligible to take or be paid for smallpox vaccination leave in lieu of taking a budgetary furlough day. However, any part of the leave that is covered by worker's compensation time loss shall be paid from that fund. (Ord. 16735 § 10, 2009: Ord. 16339 § 10, 2008: Ord. 14591 § 2, 2003).

3.12.220 Sick leave and time off for medical and family reasons.

A. Except for employees covered by subsection G. of this section, employees eligible for leave benefits shall accrue sick leave benefits at the rate of 0.04616 hours for each hour in pay status exclusive of overtime up to a maximum of eight hours per month; except that sick leave shall not begin to accrue until the first of the month following the month in which the employee commenced employment. No adjustment to reduce sick leave accruals for furloughed employee shall be made as a result of a budgetary furlough. The employee is not entitled to sick leave if not previously earned.

B. During the first six months of service, employees eligible to accrue vacation leave may, at the appointing authority's discretion, use any accrued days of vacation leave as an extension of sick leave. If an employee does not work a full six months, any vacation leave used for sick leave must be reimbursed to the county upon termination.

C. For employees covered by the overtime requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act, sick leave may be used in one-half hour increments, at the discretion of the appointing authority.

D. There shall be no limit to the hours of sick leave benefits accrued by an eligible employee.

E. Separation from or termination of county employment except by reason of retirement or layoff due to lack of work, funds, efficiency reasons or separation for nondisciplinary medical reasons, shall cancel all sick leave accrued to the employee as of the date of separation or termination. Should the employee resign in good standing, be separated for nondisciplinary medical reason or be laid off, and return to county employment within two years, accrued sick leave shall be restored, but the restoration shall not apply where the former employment was in a term-limited temporary position.

F.1. Except for employees covered by subsection G. of this section, employees eligible to accrue sick leave and who have successfully completed at least five years of county service and who retire as a result of length of service or who terminate by reason of death shall be paid, or their estates paid or as provided for by Title 11 RCW, as applicable, an amount equal to thirty-five percent of their unused, accumulated sick leave multiplied by the employee's rate of pay in effect upon the date of leaving county employment less mandatory withholdings. This provision is predicated on the requirement that, except with the written approval of the executive, the position, if vacated by a nonrepresented employee, shall not be filled until salary savings for the position are accumulated in an amount sufficient to pay the cost of the cash out. For the purposes of this subsection F.1, "retire as a result of length of service" means an employee is eligible, applies for and begins drawing a pension from the Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters (LEOFF), Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS), Public Safety Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) or the city of Seattle Retirement Plan immediately upon terminating county employment.

2.a. In lieu of the remuneration for unused sick leave at retirement, the manager of the human resources division, or the manager's designee, may, with equivalent funds, provide eligible employees with a voluntary employee beneficiary association plan that provides for reimbursement of retiree and other qualifying medical expenses. Under K.C.C. 3.12.190.H., in lieu of the remuneration for fifty percent of unused vacation leave at retirement, the manager may also fund the voluntary employee beneficiary association plan.

b. The manager shall adopt procedures for the implementation of all voluntary employee beneficiary association plans. At a minimum, the procedures shall provide that:

(1) each group of employees hold an election to decide whether to implement a voluntary employee beneficiary association plan for a defined group of employees. The determination of the majority of voting employees in a group shall bind the remainder. Elections for represented employees shall be conducted by the appropriate bargaining representative. Elections for nonrepresented employees shall be conducted in accordance with procedures established by the manager;

(2) the manager has discretion to determine the scope of employee groups voting on whether to adopt a voluntary employee beneficiary association plan. The manager shall consult with bargaining representatives and elected officials in determining the scope of voting groups;

(3) any voluntary employee beneficiary association plan implemented in accordance with this subsection F.2. complies with federal tax law. Disbursements in accordance with this subsection F.2. shall be exempt from withholdings, to the extent permitted by law; and

(4) employees shall forfeit remuneration under subsections F.1. and 2. of this section if the employee belongs to a group that has voted to implement a voluntary employee beneficiary association plan and the employee fails to execute forms that are necessary to the proper administration of the plan within twelve months of retirement by reason of length of service, as defined in subsection F.1. of this subsection.

G. Uniformed employees covered under the LEOFF Retirement System-Plan I shall apply for disability retirement under RCW 41.26.120.

H.1. An employee must use all of his or her accrued sick leave and any donated sick leave before taking unpaid leave for his or her own health reasons. If the injury or illness is compensable under the county's workers compensation program, then the employee has the option to augment or not augment time loss payments with the use of accrued sick leave. A furloughed employee shall not be eligible to take or be paid for sick leave in lieu of taking a budgetary furlough day.

2. For a leave for family reasons, the employee shall choose at the start of the leave whether the particular leave would be paid or unpaid; but when an employee chooses to take paid leave for family reasons he or she may set aside a reserve of up to eighty hours of accrued sick leave. A furloughed employee who is on county family medical leave as provided for in this section shall retain county benefits during furlough days.

3. An employee who has exhausted all of his or her sick leave may use accrued vacation leave before going on leave of absence without pay, if approved by his or her appointing authority. A furloughed employee shall not be eligible to take or be paid for vacation leave in lieu of sick leave in lieu of taking a furlough day. Sick leave shall be used for the following reasons:

a. the employee's bona fide illness, but an employee who suffers an occupational illness may not simultaneously collect sick leave and worker's compensation payments in a total amount greater than the net regular pay of the employee;

b. the employee's incapacitating injury, but:

(1) an employee injured on the job may not simultaneously collect sick leave and worker's compensation payments in a total amount greater than the net regular pay of the employee, though an employee who chooses not to augment his or her worker's compensation time loss pay through the use of sick leave shall be deemed on unpaid leave status;

(2) an employee who chooses to augment workers' compensation payments with the use of accrued sick leave shall notify the safety and workers' compensation program office in writing at the beginning of the leave;

(3) an employee may not collect sick leave and workers' compensation time loss payments for physical incapacity due to any injury or occupational illness that is directly traceable to employment other than with the county;

c. the employee's exposure to contagious diseases and resulting quarantine;

d. a female employee's temporary disability caused by or contributed to by pregnancy and childbirth;

e. the employee's medical or dental appointments but only if the employee's appointing authority has approved the use of sick leave for those appointments;

f. to care for the employee's child as defined in this chapter if the child has an illness or health condition which requires treatment or supervision from the employee; or

g. to care for other family members, if:

(1) the employee has been employed by the county for twelve months or more and has worked a minimum of nine hundred ten hours for a thirty-five-hour employee or one thousand forty hours for a forty-hour employee in the preceding twelve months;

(2) the family member is the employee's spouse or domestic partner, the employee's child, a child of the employee's spouse or domestic partner, the parent of the employee, employee's spouse or domestic partner or an individual who stands or stood in loco parentis to the employee, the employee's spouse or domestic partner; and

(3) the reason for the leave is one of the following:

i. the birth of a son or daughter and care of the newborn child, or placement with the employee of a son or daughter for adoption or foster care, if the leave is taken within twelve months of the birth, adoption or placement;

ii. the care of the employee's child or child of the employee's spouse or domestic partner whose illness or health condition requires treatment or supervision by the employee; or

iii. care of a family member who suffers from a serious health condition.

I. An employee may take a total of up to eighteen work weeks unpaid leave for his or her own serious health condition, and for family reasons as provided in subsection H.3.f. and g. of this section, combined, within a twelve-month period. The leave may be continuous, which is consecutive days or weeks, or intermittent, which is taken in whole or partial days as needed. Intermittent leave is subject to the following conditions:

1. When leave is taken after the birth or placement of a child for adoption or foster care, an employee may take leave intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule only if authorized by the employee's appointing authority;

2. An employee may take leave intermittently or on a reduced schedule when medically necessary due to a serious health condition of the employee or a family member of the employee; and

3. If an employee requests intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule under subsection I.2. of this section that is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment, the appointing authority may require the employee to transfer temporarily to an available alternative position for which the employee is qualified and that has equivalent pay and benefits and that better accommodates recurring periods of leave than the regular position of the employee.

J. Use of donated leave shall run concurrently with the eighteen work week family medical leave entitlement.

K. The county shall continue its contribution toward health care benefits during any unpaid leave taken under subsection I. of this section.

L. Department management is responsible for the proper administration of the sick leave benefit. Verification from a licensed health care provider may be required to substantiate the health condition of the employee or family member for leave requests.

M. An employee who returns from unpaid family or medical leave within the time provided in this section is entitled, subject to bona fide layoff provisions, to:

1.a. the same position he or she held when the leave commenced; or

b. a position with equivalent status, benefits, pay and other terms and conditions of employment; and

2. The same seniority accrued before the date on which the leave commenced.

N. Failure to return to work by the expiration date of a leave of absence may be cause for removal and result in termination of the employee from county service. (Ord. 16735 § 11, 2009: Ord. 16592 § 2, 2009: Ord. 16339 § 20, 2008: Ord. 15557 § 1, 2006: Ord. 13377 § 3, 1998: Ord. 12943 § 7, 1997: Ord. 12422 § 2, 1996: Ord. 12014 § 21, 1995).

3.12.222 Donation of vacation or compensatory hours to nonprofit organizations. The executive may implement a process providing the opportunity for benefit-eligible employees to convert accrued vacation or accumulated compensatory hours, or both, into a cash donation. This process must conform to the following:

A. Annually, from the first business day in October through the last business day in November, an employee may sign a written authorization subject to approval by the employee's department director, or the employee's department director's designee, to convert accrued vacation or accumulated compensatory hours, or both, into cash to benefit one nonprofit organization participating in the King County employee charitable campaign in accordance with K.C.C. chapter 3.36, of the employee's choice.

B. Notwithstanding K.C.C. 3.12.190, an employee may convert accrued vacation or accumulated compensatory hours, or both, into cash to benefit natural disaster relief efforts. Upon the occurrence of a natural disaster and with the exception of the employee charitable campaign-related period designated under subsection A. of this section the executive may authorize a forty-five-day opportunity for benefit-eligible employees to sign a written authorization to convert accrued vacation or accumulated compensatory hours, or both, into cash to benefit one nonprofit organization designated by the executive. The employee's written authorization is subject to approval by the employee's department director or the employee's department director's designee. The designated nonprofit organization must be a King County employee charitable campaign participant in accordance with K.C.C. chapter 3.36.

C. The hours converted under subsection A. or B. of this section must be in full-hour increments. The employee's donation must be a minimum of four hours and no more than forty hours per calendar year with the exception of the conditions described in subsection D. of this section.

D. An employee who earned excess vacation leave or compensatory hours, or both, beyond the amount that may be carried over into the next fiscal year may donate greater than forty hours under subsection A. or B. of this section with approval from the employee's department director, or the employee's department director's designee.

E. All King County benefit-eligible employees may donate in accordance with this section voluntarily.

F. The finance and business operations division shall value the hours donated under this section based on the regular hourly rate of the employee in effect at the time the approved conversion authorization is processed. The finance and business operations division shall process leave donations authorized under subsection A. of this section on Monday of the first full week in December. The finance and business operations division shall process leave donations authorized under subsection B. of this section on Monday of the first full week after the forty-five-day period designated in accordance with subsection B. of this section.

G. The net cash value of the accrued vacation or compensatory hours, or both, after all mandatory withholdings, including, but not limited to, withholding in accordance with retirement plans, federal income tax and the Federal Insurance Contributions Act, have been deducted must be distributed by the finance and business operations division to the designated nonprofit organization or organizations.

H. Employees governed by a collective bargaining agreement may convert to cash accrued vacation or accumulated compensatory hours, or both, if the existing agreement allows for, or the agreement is amended to allow for, conversions as authorized in this section. The executive may enter into such agreements or modifications to existing collective bargaining agreements as are necessary to implement this section. (Ord. 15558 § 2, 2006).

3.12.223 Donation of vacation or sick leave to other employees.

A.1. Any employee eligible for leave benefits may donate a portion of his or her accrued vacation leave to another employee eligible for leave benefits. Such a donation will occur upon written request to and approval of the donating and receiving employees' department director or directors, except that requests for vacation donation made for the purposes of supplementing the sick leave benefits of the receiving employee shall not be denied unless approval would result in a departmental hardship for the receiving department.

2. The number of hours donated shall not exceed the donor's accrued vacation credit as of the date of the request. No donation of vacation hours shall be permitted where it would cause the employee receiving the transfer to exceed his or her maximum vacation accrual.

3. A furloughed employee shall not be eligible to take or be paid for donated vacation in lieu of taking a furlough day, except as provided in K.C.C. 3.12F.040.

4. Donated vacation leave hours must be used within ninety calendar days following the date of donation. Donated hours not used within ninety days or due to the death of the receiving employee shall revert to the donor. Donated vacation leave hours shall be excluded from vacation leave payoff provisions in this chapter. For purposes of this section, the first hours used by an employee shall be accrued vacation leave hours.

B.1. Any employee eligible for leave benefits may donate a portion of his or her accrued sick leave to another employee eligible for leave benefits upon written notice to the donating and receiving employees' department director or directors.

2. No donation shall be permitted unless the donating employee's sick leave accrual balance immediately subsequent to the donation is one hundred hours or more. No employee may donate more than twenty-five hours of his or her accrued sick leave in a calendar year.

3. Donated sick leave hours must be used within ninety calendar days. Donated hours not used within ninety days or due to the death of the receiving employee shall revert to the donor. Donated sick leave hours shall be excluded from the sick leave payoff provisions contained in this chapter, and sick leave restoration provisions contained in this chapter. For purposes of this section, the first hours used by an employee shall be accrued sick leave hours.

C. All donations of vacation and sick leave made under this chapter are strictly voluntary. Employees are prohibited from soliciting, offering or receiving monetary or any other compensation or benefits in exchange for donating vacation or sick leave hours.

D. All vacation and sick leave hours donated shall be converted to a dollar value based on the donor's straight time hourly rate at the time of donation. Such dollar value will then be divided by the receiving employee's hourly rate to determine the actual number of hours received. Vacation leave donated to a furloughed employee, who is designated by a department director and confirmed by the chief administrative officer as eligible to use donated leave on a furlough day, is donated on an hour-for-hour basis, without an hourly rate conversion. Unused donated vacation and sick leave shall be reconverted based on the donor's straight time hourly rate at the time of reconversion. Vacation leave donated to a furloughed employee who is designated by the department director and confirmed by the chief administrative officer as eligible to use donated leave on a furlough day shall not revert back to the donor. (Ord. 16735 § 12, 2009: Ord. 16339 § 12, 2008: Ord. 12943 § 8, 1997: Ord. 12014 § 22, 1995).

3.12.224 Leave - donation to an account or program to benefit children of deceased employee. Notwithstanding K.C.C. 3.12.190, if an employee dies while engaged within the scope of his or her employment, the executive may implement a process providing a one-time opportunity to allow employees eligible for benefits to convert either accrued vacation or accumulated compensatory time hours, or both, to cash to benefit any children of the deceased employee who are under twenty-three years old at the time of the employee's death. This process must conform to the following requirements:

A. The executive shall establish a forty-five-day period during which time employees may sign a written request, subject to approval by the executive, to convert either accrued vacation or accumulated compensatory time hours, or both, to cash and to authorize a payroll deduction of the cash to benefit the children of the deceased employee who are under twenty-three years old at the time of the employee's death. The hours must be in full-hour increments, with a minimum of four;

B. The executive shall determine the maximum hours that any employee can convert to cash, but the maximum may not be greater than a total of forty by each employee;

C. The value of the hours must be determined based on the regular hourly rate of the employee in effect at the time the approved conversion request is received by the county's payroll office;

D. If employees elect to convert either accrued vacation or accumulated compensatory time hours, or both, to cash as set forth in this section, the executive shall identify one or more support accounts or programs to which the cash may be paid for the benefit of the children. Unless the executive determines that another support account or program is more suitable given the circumstances of the children, the executive shall first insure the establishment of a Washington state college tuition prepaid program-guaranteed education tuition (GET) account with the state of Washington treasury to benefit the children of the deceased employee. In addition to or in lieu of the GET program, the executive may direct that some or all of the cash collected under this section be paid to other support accounts or programs that the executive has determined:

1. Are established in the names of the children or their legal guardian for the benefit of the children;

2. Are held by a governmental agency, nonprofit organization, bank, trust or lawful entity other than an individual;

3. Contain adequate safeguards against theft, diversion, loss or wasting of the funds paid under this section; and

4. Restrict the permissible use of funds paid under this section to paying for minimal, if any, administrative expenses and providing for the children's reasonable food, shelter and educational expenses;

E. The cash resulting from converted accrued vacation or compensatory time hours, or both, net of all mandatory deductions, including, but not limited to, deductions for retirement plans and federal income tax and the Federal Insurance Contributions Act, must be transmitted to the Washington state college tuition prepaid program-guaranteed education tuition (GET) account established by the executive, or such other accounts or programs as may be determined by the executive, under subsection D of this section; and

F. Employees governed by a collective bargaining agreement may convert to cash either accrued vacation or accumulated compensatory time hours, or both, only if the existing agreement allows for or the collective bargaining agreement is amended to allow for conversions as authorized in this section. (Ord. 14750 § 1, 2003: Ord. 13743 § 1, 2000).

3.12.2245 Leave - donation to an account or program to benefit children of deceased employee - agreements by executive. The executive may enter into such agreements or modifications to existing collective bargaining agreements as are necessary to implement the purpose of K.C.C. 3.12.224. (14750 § 2, 2003: Ord. 13743 § 2, 2000).

3.12.225 Leave for school volunteer service. The appointing authority shall allow the use of up to three days of sick leave each year to allow employees to perform volunteer services at the school attended by the employee's child. A furloughed employee shall not be eligible to take or be paid for school volunteer sick leave in lieu of taking a furlough day. Employees requesting to use sick leave for this purpose shall submit such a request in writing specifying the name of the school and the nature of the volunteer services to be performed. (Ord. 16735 § 13, 2009: Ord. 16339 § 13, 2008: Ord. 7956 § 6, 1987).

3.12.230 Holidays.

A. The following days are hereby designated as official county holidays:

1. January 1, New Year's Day;
2. Third Monday in January, Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday;
3. Third Monday in February, President's Day;
4. Last Monday in May, Memorial Day;
5. July 4, Independence Day;
6. First Monday in September, Labor Day;
7. November 11, Veteran's Day;
8. Thanksgiving Day and the day immediately following;
9. December 25, Christmas Day;
10. Special or limited holidays as declared by the president or governor, and as approved by the

council;

11. Such other days in lieu of holidays as the council may determine;

12. An employee who is eligible for leave benefits shall be granted two personal holidays to be administered through the vacation plan, though the hours granted to an employee working less than a full-time schedule shall be prorated to reflect his or her normally scheduled work day. One day shall be credited to the employee's leave balance on the first of October and one day on the first of November.

B. For holidays falling on a Saturday, the Friday before shall be a paid holiday. For holidays falling on a Sunday, the Monday following shall be a paid holiday.

C. An employee must be eligible for leave benefits and in a pay status on the day before and the day following a holiday to be eligible for holiday pay. However, an employee who has successfully completed at least five years of county service and who retires at the end of a month in which the last regularly scheduled working day is observed as a holiday, shall be eligible for holiday pay if the employee is in a pay status the day before the day observed as a holiday. An employee otherwise eligible for holiday pay shall not be ineligible as a result of not being in a pay status on the day before or after the holiday due to budgetary furlough. (Ord. 16735 § 14, 2009: Ord. 16339 § 14, 2008: Ord. 12943 § 9, 1997: Ord. 12014 § 23, 1995).

3.12.240 Leave - jury duty. Any employee eligible for leave benefits who is ordered on a jury shall be entitled to his or her regular county pay but only if [any]* fees received for jury duty are deposited, exclusive of mileage, with the department of finance. A furloughed employee shall not be eligible to take or be paid for jury duty leave in lieu of taking a furlough day. Employees shall report to their work supervisor when dismissed from jury service. (Ord. 16735 § 15, 2009: Ord. 16339 § 15, 2008: Ord. 12943 § 10, 1997: Ord. 12077 § 5, 1995).

***Reviser's note: Material not underlined as required under K.C.C. 1.24.075 in Ordinance 16339.**

3.12.247 Limited duty assignment policy due to pregnancy.**A. Findings. The council finds that:**

1. The county is committed to affirmative action in hiring and the full participation of women in all occupations throughout the county's work force.
2. Pregnancy is a normal occurrence in a woman's life.
3. The county has already established maternity and parental leaves for its employees.
4. It is desirable to establish a policy to reasonably accommodate pregnant female county employees in a medically approved limited duty assignment.

B. Definition.

"Employee", for purposes of this limited duty assignment policy, means a full-time regular employee or a part-time regular employee. Promotional probation may be extended at the discretion of the director and after consultation with an employee's appointing authority so an employee who utilizes the limited duty provisions of this section has the opportunity to perform for the established promotional probationary period.

C. Establishment of Policy.

1. It is the policy of the county to recognize that pregnancy is a normal event in a woman's life and that provisions shall be made to provide all female employees the opportunity to continue to participate in the work force during and up to three months after a pregnancy.

2. A female employee, who upon the advice of her physician, cannot safely perform all of the normal duties of her job due to pregnancy and who indicates a desire to continue working prior to taking sick or maternity leave for which she may otherwise be eligible, shall upon concurrence of the director receive consideration for temporary reassignment. The county shall, where reasonably possible, accommodate a female employee's desire for medically approved continued employment during pregnancy and up to three months thereafter via one or more of the three alternatives listed. The first alternative shall have preference and assignments and/or reassignments shall be given within an employee's department where possible. The office of human resources management shall be responsible for coordination of the following limited duty alternatives:

- a. Temporary assignment to limited duties within the employee's classification;
- b. Temporary reassignment of the employee to a similar classification with equal pay for which the employee is qualified;
- c. Only if the director concurs that an employee cannot reasonably be accommodated by K.C.C. 3.12.247C.2.a or K.C.C. 3.12.247C.2.b, temporary reassignment of the employee can be made to another classification for which the employee is qualified but with lesser pay, to be assigned at the pay step closest to that which the employee was receiving in her normal job classification.

3. The executive shall determine and facilitate any necessary interfund transfers when an employee is temporarily reassigned to another department.

4. Because of the separate and unique retirement system for police, the temporary assignment and/or reassignment for pregnant police personnel shall be provided as in K.C.C. 3.12.247C.2.a and K.C.C. 3.12.247C.2.b for LEOFF I members. All three alternatives listed in K.C.C. 3.12.247C.2 can apply to LEOFF II members.

D. Limitations.

1. Temporary assignments and/or reassignments made pursuant to this section shall be limited to the period of temporary incapacity caused by pregnancy both before childbirth and upon return to work, all prior to the time when released by the employee's physician to return to full duty.

2. For the purposes of this section, temporary incapacity is defined as the period during which because of pregnancy the employee cannot perform all of her regular duties but is capable of performing a temporary limited duty assignment provided by the county as listed in K.C.C. 3.12.247C and, for purposes of this policy, in no instance shall such temporary incapacity extend more than three months after termination of the pregnancy.

3. Female employees shall continue to be eligible for paid accrued vacation and sick leave and leave of absence without pay pursuant to the personnel rules during the period of temporary incapacity due to pregnancy, pregnancy related conditions, and parenting.

E. Procedures. The director will develop procedures to implement this policy which shall include verification of the medical basis for the limited duty request.

F. Severability. Should any subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this section be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this chapter. (Ord. 12014 § 24, 1995).

3.12.250 Leave of absence - without pay.

A. An employee eligible for leave benefits may take a leave of absence without pay for thirty calendar days or less if authorized in writing by the employee's appointing authority.

B. An employee eligible for leave benefits may take a leave of absence without pay for more than thirty calendar days if authorized in writing by the employee's appointing authority and the director.

C. Leaves of absence without pay shall be for periods not to exceed one year except that the director may, in special circumstances, grant an extension beyond one year.

D. Other employee benefits as provided in this chapter shall not be provided to or accrue to the employee while on leave of absence without pay, except as provided in K.C.C. 3.12.220.

E. If a leave of absence without pay was granted for purposes of recovering health, the employee shall be required by the director to submit a physician's statement concerning the employee's ability to resume duties prior to return to work.

F. An employee on leave of absence without pay may return from the leave before its expiration date if the employee provides the appointing authority with a written request to that effect at least fifteen days prior to resuming duties.

G. Failure to return to work by the expiration date of a leave of absence without pay shall be cause for removal and shall result in automatic termination of the employee from county service.

H. A leave of absence without pay may be revoked by the director upon evidence submitted to the director by the appointing authority of the employee indicating that such leave was requested and granted under false pretenses, or that the need for such leave has ceased to exist. (Ord. 13377 § 5, 1998: Ord. 12014 § 25, 1995).

3.12.260 Leave of absence - Military. A leave of absence for active military duty or active military training duty shall be granted to eligible employees in accordance with applicable provisions of state and/or federal law; provided, that a request for such leave shall be submitted to the appointing authority in writing by the employee and accompanied by a validated copy of military orders ordering such active duty or active training duty. (Ord. 12422 § 3, 1996: Ord. 12014 § 26, 1995).

3.12.262 Extension of benefits to military personnel. Any employee eligible for leave and insured benefits who upon demand by the United States Government vacates his or her position with the county either to determine his or her physical fitness to enter, or to actually enter upon active duty or training in the Washington National Guard, the United States Armed Services, or the United States Public Health Service shall receive medical, dental and life benefits for the time period commencing with the beginning of an employee's military leave of absence and continuing until active duty has been completed. These employees shall continue to receive the medical, dental and life benefits that they received prior to separation from county employment. (Ord. 12943 § 11, 1997: Ord. 9967 § 2, 1991).

3.12.270 Disciplinary action.

A. A career service employee may be disciplined by the appointing authority for any of the following causes, or for any other justifiable cause:

1. Dishonesty, including but not limited to dishonesty in securing appointment;
2. Incompetency;
3. Inefficiency;
4. Unauthorized absence, including patterns of continual tardiness;
5. Neglect of duty;
6. Insubordination;
7. Consumption of alcoholic beverages or use of illegal drugs while on duty during the workday;
8. Conviction of a crime;
9. Disorderly conduct while on duty;

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10. Negligent, reckless or knowing damage to or waste of public property;
 11. Violation of any of the provisions of applicable federal or state law relating to political activities;
 12. Negligent, reckless or knowing violation of any of the provisions of the personnel guidelines;
 13. Violation of any lawful order, directive, or policy of a superior, including but not limited to the executive, department directors and division managers, or a violation of the employee code of ethics, K.C.C. 3.04.
- B. Prior to the disposition of any suspension or discharge, a career service employee shall be advised of his/her right to seek assistance through the county's employee assistance program as described in the personnel guidelines.
- C. Disciplinary action shall be the primary responsibility of the appointing authority and may include but is not limited to reduction in rank or pay, suspension without pay, and/or discharge of the employee from county employment. The appointing authority shall consult with the director prior to the discharge of any career service or exempt employee.
- D. In any disciplinary action against a career service employee, pertinent information shall be reduced to written form by the appointing authority and a copy provided to the employee and to the director. Such written notice shall state the following:
1. The reason for discipline;
 2. The facts supporting the discipline;
 3. The form of discipline to be imposed;
 4. The effective date of the discipline;
 5. Unless otherwise provided in an applicable collective bargaining agreement, the right of the employee to appeal the following disciplinary action to the personnel board:
 - a. Suspension of more than sixty days;
 - b. Reduction in rank or pay; or
 - c. Discharge;
 6. Unless otherwise provided in an applicable collective bargaining agreement, the right of the employee to appeal any disciplinary action to appropriate authorities through the initiation of grievance procedures, as authorized by or approved under this chapter.
- E. Written notice of the discipline shall be delivered to the career service employee or mailed to the employee's last known address by certified mail, return receipt requested. An employee shall be deemed notified of the disciplinary action on the date the notice was delivered to the employee or the date on the return receipt, as applicable. (Ord. 12014 § 27, 1995).

3.12.280 Grievance procedures.

- A. The county recognizes the importance and desirability of settling grievances of career service employees promptly and fairly in the interest of continued good employee relations and morale. To accomplish this, every effort will be made to settle grievances at the lowest possible level of supervision.
- B. Employees shall be unimpeded and free from restraint, interference, coercion, discrimination or reprisal in seeking adjudication of their grievances.
- C. Appropriate grievance procedures designed to accomplish the intent of this section shall be developed and incorporated by the director into the personnel guidelines authorized by this chapter. Such grievance procedures shall apply to career service employees only. (Ord. 12014 § 28, 1995).

3.12.290 Personnel board appeals.

- A. In the case of an appeal by a career service employee to the board, written notice of appeal shall be filed by the employee with the chair of the board and the director within thirty calendar days of the employee having been notified of the disciplinary action as provided for by this chapter or within ten calendar days of completion of the grievance or appeal process contained in this chapter or any applicable collective bargaining agreement. For appeals not involving disciplinary action, the applicable period shall be fourteen calendar days from the action from which the appeal is taken, or fourteen calendar days from the time the employee should reasonably have known of the action, whichever is longer. The written notice of appeal shall contain a statement of the following:
1. The action or alleged action from which the appeal is taken;
 2. The grounds for appeal; and

3. The relief requested.

The board may only hear appeals which are within its jurisdiction, as set forth by Section 540 of the charter.

B. All decisions of the personnel board shall be final unless appealed to a court of competent jurisdiction within fourteen calendar days.

C. The personnel board or the court shall award a career service employee reasonable attorney's fees incurred in any appeal in which the employee is the prevailing party, provided, that the employee shall be considered the prevailing party only where the county has a written settlement offer in effect thirty calendar days prior to the hearing of the personnel board or court and the award obtained by the employee exceeds the terms of that settlement offer; provided further, that such reasonable attorney's fees shall not exceed the actual fees paid by the employee.

D. Annually or upon request, the director shall provide the council with a status report of appeals filed with the personnel board. (Ord. 12014 § 29, 1995).

3.12.300 Reductions in force. In the event of a reduction in force due to lack of work, lack of funds or considerations of efficiency, layoffs shall be conducted at a department, division or section level. The order of layoff shall be conducted by class on the basis of merit. Where two or more career service employees within a class are of equal merit, county seniority shall determine the order of layoff as between those employees. Where there is an applicable collective bargaining agreement, the order of layoff shall be determined by the collective bargaining agreement. In lieu of laying off a career service employee, the director may reassign the employee to a comparable, vacant position, when the director determines the reassignment to be in the best interests of the county. (Ord. 16962 § 2, 12010: Ord. 12014 § 30, 1995).

3.12.310 Tenure. The tenure of each employee shall be subject to the rendering of efficient service. Career service employees may be removed only for cause, as specified by this chapter; provided, that such cause need not be demonstrated where an employee is retired or is laid off in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. Exempt employees serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority. Nothing in this section shall derogate from the county's power to abolish positions and lay off employees because of lack of work, lack of funds, or considerations of efficiency. (Ord. 4324 § 9, 1979).

3.12.320 Retirement. Retirement from county employment shall be administered in accordance with the provisions set forth in state law, RCW Chapter 41.40. Former employees who have retired from county employment shall be eligible for temporary and part-time employment on the same basis as other applicants; provided that PERS Plan I retirees shall not be hired on such basis into retirement eligible positions. Per RCW 41.60.690, no PERS Plan II retiree shall be eligible to receive a monthly retirement allowance if the retiree is performing service for any nonfederal public employer in the state. (Ord. 8097, 1987: Ord. 4324 § 33, 1979).

3.12.330 Administration - responsibility. The executive shall be responsible for the administration of the county personnel system in accordance with the policies and standards established by this chapter, which shall constitute the personnel rules of the county. The director as the executive's designee shall be responsible to administer the personnel system and directly-related affairs of the county to include collective bargaining; provided, that such a role will not infringe on the authority of the county administrative officer to exercise supervisory authority on those matters not directly relating to the formal administration of the county's personnel system; provided further, that the equal employment officer and program, to include the affirmative action program, shall be directly responsible to the county administrative officer in all applicable affairs in which there has not been a formally defined relationship, by virtue of council action or personnel guideline, between said office and the director. (Ord. 14199 § 29, 2001: Ord. 12014 § 31, 1995).

3.12.335 Supported employment.

A. It is the policy of King County to provide opportunities for paid, competitive employment for individuals with developmental disabilities, as defined in this chapter, in integrated work settings. The executive shall seek the cooperation, assistance and participation of all county departments in the successful implementation of this policy.

B. Persons with developmental disabilities as defined in RCW 71A.10.020(2), as amended, shall be eligible for supported employment pursuant to this section.

C. The department of community and human services or its successor agency, is designated as the lead agency responsible for the management of the supported employment initiative with technical support provided by the developmental disabilities division, or its successor agency.

D. The executive is authorized to adopt administrative rules to implement this section pursuant to K.C.C. 3.12.350. (Ord. 15777 § 3, 2007; Ord. 12498 §§ 1, 4 - 7, 1996).

3.12.340 Administration - employer-employee relations. Employer-employee relations shall be maintained and conducted in a manner which will assure the rights of employees, through, or independent of, their organizations, to communicate their desires to the agencies and officers of county government, and at the same time, to insure the orderly process of governmental operations. (Ord. 4324 § 4, 1979).

3.12.350 Administration - personnel guidelines.

A. The manager shall adopt personnel guidelines for the purpose of implementing the directives, policies and standards contained in this chapter and in Article 5 of the charter.

Such personnel guidelines shall be subject to approval by the executive. Before adoption, amendment or repeal of any guideline, the division shall give at least forty-five days' notice of its intended action by filing notice with the clerk of the council and mailing notice of the intended action to each member of the council, each department director and agency head, each collective bargaining unit that has a collective bargaining agreement with the county, the chief of staff of the council and the council policy staff director, or their successors. After adoption of the guideline, the division shall post all guidelines to the Internet.

B. The personnel guidelines shall include, but not be limited to, the following subjects:

1. Purpose, objectives and intent;
2. Definitions;
3. Preemployment administration:
 - a. role of the manager and the division;
 - b. recruitment procedures;
 - c. application procedures;
 - d. examinations;
 - e. employment lists;
 - f. certification;
 - g. appointment; and
 - h. process requirements of equal employment opportunity;
4. Postemployment administration:
 - a. role of the human resources division;
 - b. probationary periods;
 - c. classification system;
 - d. employee performance evaluation;
 - e. disciplinary procedures;
 - f. separation, including reductions in force;
 - g. employee relations; and
 - h. process requirements of equal employment opportunity;
5. Special duty;
6. Grievance and appeals procedures:
 - a. role of the human resources division and departments, including relationship and processes of the equal employment program;
 - b. role of the manager;

- c. grievance procedures;
- d. appeals procedures; and
- e. role of the personnel board;
- 7. Conditions of employment;
- 8. Employee benefits;
- 9. Procedures for leaves of absence; and
- 10. Procedures for salary and administration. (Ord. 14233 § 2, 2001; Ord. 12014 § 32, 1995).

3.12.360 Effect of collective bargaining. When a collective bargaining agreement establishes a condition of employment, benefit or procedure which conflicts with a condition, benefit or procedure established by this chapter or otherwise by ordinance, the collective bargaining agreement shall take precedence with respect to those employees covered by the agreement, so long as the following conditions are met:

- A. The condition of employment, benefit or procedure created by the agreement is lawful; and
- B. The agreement has been adopted by the council by ordinance.

Adoption of the agreement by ordinance shall be deemed an amendment of this chapter only with respect to the affected employees and subject condition, benefit or procedure. (Ord. 12014 § 33, 1995).

3.12.365 Effect on sheriff's civil service. In the event of a conflict between the provisions of this chapter and any statute or regulation governing members of the sheriff's civil service system, such statute or regulation shall take precedence. (Ord. 9498 § 14, 1990)

3.12.400 Volunteers for the county.

A. It is the policy of the county to support the endeavors of volunteers for the county in a manner that benefits the community and is in the best interest of the county, and provides scope of work direction to its volunteers.

B. Volunteers for the county are expected to act within the scope of assigned volunteer work responsibilities. Volunteers for the county are authorized agents of the county only when acting within the scope of their assigned volunteer work responsibilities. Volunteers for the county are entitled to defense and indemnification as provided in K.C.C. chapters 4.12 and 4.13.

C. Volunteers for the county shall be administered as follows:

1. A county employee may be a volunteer for the county only if the service as a volunteer for the county is not the same type of services that the employee is employed to perform for the county;
2. A volunteer for the county may be asked by an agency to enter into a volunteer agreement, waiver or other type of liability mitigation protection agreement;
3. The county retains the sole right to accept, decline or terminate the services of a volunteer for the county for any reason. A volunteer for the county is expected to comply with all federal, state and local laws and to adhere to all county policies and procedures related to workplace conduct and use of county resources, including all those applicable to the specific department, division, section and work place that oversees their volunteer work. If the volunteer for the county violates any law, county policy or procedure, or any workplace expectation, including those related to workplace conduct or the use of county resources the county, at its sole discretion, may impose corrective measures upon the volunteer for the county. Such corrective measures may include, but not be limited to, verbal counseling in an effort to achieve acceptable compliance up to and including dismissal the volunteer for the county. Progressive measures are not required and there shall be no formal right of appeal for any corrective action taken by the county. The services of a volunteer for the county may be terminated at any time by either the volunteer for the county or by the county for any reason without cause or notice;
4. The use of county resources and property by a volunteer for the county is limited to the conduct appropriately required to deliver the volunteer services within the scope of work identified for the volunteer and uses that are available to the general public as provided in K.C.C. 3.04.020;

5. For each program that uses volunteers for the county, departments shall develop a code of conduct. The department shall provide volunteers for the county with a copy of the relevant code of conduct or post the code of conduct in an area where volunteers report for work. Codes of conduct shall include the principles of behaving with respect toward other volunteers for the county, behaving with respect toward members of the public, behaving with respect toward county employees and behaving with respect for individuals, animals or property that are the focus of the program using volunteers for the county. Individuals who violate the code of conduct shall be subject to the corrective measures in subsection C.3. of this section; and

6. The departments, in consultation with the manager of the human resources division*, shall be responsible for the administration of volunteer programs and the management of volunteers for the county in accordance with the policies and standards established by this chapter. (Ord. 16640 § 3, 2009).

***Reviser's note: The division's name is the human resources management division (Ordinance 14199, 2001).**

Chapter 3.12A
CAREER SERVICE REVIEW

Sections:

- 3.12A.010 Findings and policy statement.
- 3.12A.020 Definitions.
- 3.12A.030 Annual review
- 3.12A.040 Effect of exceeding threshold hours.
- 3.12A.050 Appeal procedure.
- 3.12A.060 Termination.

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(King County 12-2008)

3.12A.010 Findings and policy statement. The council finds that both operational efficiency and fair and equitable employment practices are advanced by the use of regular, career service employees where appropriate. Therefore, it is the policy of King County to have ongoing, relatively stable, and predictable bodies of work necessary to the provision of services to the public performed by career service employees, and to minimize its use of part-time and temporary employees. To achieve that goal, the council hereby adopts the procedures set forth in this chapter. (Ord. 12943 § 13, 1997).

3.12A.020 Definitions. The definitions set forth in K.C.C. chapter 3.12 are hereby incorporated in this chapter. Words not defined in K.C.C. chapter 3.12 or in this chapter shall have their ordinary and usual meanings. In the event of conflict, the specific definitions set forth in this chapter shall presumptively, but not conclusively, prevail.

A. "Committee" means the career service review committee which shall consist of the following three permanent members: the county executive or his or her designee; the chief officer of the office of budget or successor organizational unit, or his or her designee; and the manager of the human resources management division or successor organizational unit, or his or her designee; and one member representing the department whose body of work and/or employees are then under review. (Ord. 14199 § 30, 2001: Ord. 12943 § 14, 1997).

3.12A.030 Annual review. The executive shall conduct an annual review as described herein. By March 1 of each year, beginning March 1, 1999, each executive department and administrative office shall prepare and submit to the committee a comprehensive report documenting its use of part-time and temporary employees, other than probationary and provisional employees, in the preceding calendar year.

Within 60 days of submission of the above reports, the committee shall make a factual determination as to whether an ongoing, relatively stable and predictable body of work on an annualized basis has been identified. If the committee determines that such a body of work exists, the committee may recommend: (1) the creation of any new part-time or full-time regular career service position(s); or (2) the filling of an existing vacant career service position in which the work is being performed by a temporary or part-time employee(s); or (3) the creation of a term-limited temporary employee position; or (4) the cessation of the work. If the committee identifies such a body of work, but the committee does not make any of the recommendations described above, the department must discontinue the use of part-time or temporary employees to perform that work. If the committee recommends creation of a regular career service position, but the executive does not recommend or the council does not create such a position, the department shall discontinue performance of the pertinent body of work by temporary or part-time employees.

Any regular career service position created as a result of this process will be filled by a competitive hiring process.

The reports of each department and of the committee and the records of their proceedings shall be considered disclosable public records and shall also be made available to the council upon request. (Ord. 12943 § 15, 1997).

3.12A.040 Effect of exceeding threshold hours. Part-time and temporary employees, other than probationary, provisional and term-limited temporary employees, who exceed the calendar year working hour thresholds set forth in the definitions contained in K.C.C. 3.12 shall receive pay in lieu of benefits as provided in K.C.C. 3.12. Provided, that exceeding the threshold hours does not confer career service status on any employee.

3.12A.050 Appeal procedure.

A. Part-time and temporary employees, other than probationary and provisional employees, who exceed the calendar-year working-hour thresholds set forth in the definitions contained in K.C.C. 3.12 may seek conversion of a body of work in which they perform into a part-time or full-time regular career service position by appeal to the committee. Conversion decisions shall be based on whether the work performed by the employee is an ongoing, relatively stable, and predictable body of work that is half time or more, even though the work was not perceived as such previously, and whether it should be performed by a regular part-time or full-time career service employee. The committee shall also decide, if the body of work does not warrant a career service position, whether the position should be converted to a term-limited temporary employee position. The committee shall determine whether the work performed by the employee shall (1) remain outside career service as part-time or temporary, (2) be converted to a term-limited temporary employee position that receives benefits, or (3) be converted to a part-time or full-time regular career service position.

The committee shall make its determination within 45 days of the employee's request. In the event of a tie vote by the committee, where half the committee finds that the body of work should be converted, the appeal shall be deemed to have prevailed. The committee shall make a recommendation to the executive for recommendation to the council. The executive's recommendation shall be submitted to the council if the executive decides the body of work should be performed by a career service employee and that further position authority is required. If the council does not approve the additional position, the work shall promptly be discontinued and not performed by temporary or part-time employees.

If the committee finds that the work performed by the employee should remain part-time or temporary, the employee may appeal within ten days from the date of receipt of the committee's finding by filing a notice of appeal with the committee. The committee shall direct the appeal to be considered by a hearing examiner of the county or, at its option, the committee may direct the appeal be considered by an independent, neutral arbitrator who will make a final determination. The arbitrator shall be chosen by the director and the appellant, and shall be paid by the employing department or administrative office. The hearing examiner's or arbitrator's decision shall be limited to either upholding the committee's finding or overturning the committee's finding. The decision shall be based on whether the work performed by the employee is an ongoing, relatively stable, and predictable body of work and is half-time or more, under the same standards applicable to the committee, or on whether the work meets the definition of term-limited temporary position. Employees covered by a grievance procedure contained in a collective bargaining agreement may elect either to use the grievance procedure, if the applicable collective bargaining agreement permits it, or to use the appeal procedure described above, but not both procedures.

If the hearing examiner or arbitrator overturns the committee's findings, any new career service or term-limited temporary position must be absorbed by the department within its authorized position level, or within funds available for term-limited temporary position work, provided that the department may request additional position or budget authority. The appealing employee will be placed in the career service position as a provisional appointee, with insured benefits and leave benefits, until a competitive hiring process, which substantially takes into account and weighs the experience of the employee performing the tasks of the position, is completed. If the appealing employee is selected for the position, his or her start date will be the date of the provisional appointment for all purposes, including seniority and/or a probationary period, except that those employees covered by a collective bargaining agreement the date of the appointment shall be determined in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement or by the collective bargaining process. If the employee is placed in a term-limited temporary position, his or her start date will be the date of his or her appointment to the term-limited temporary position for all purposes, except for those employees covered by collective bargaining agreements, whose start date will be determined by the collective bargaining agreement or by the collective bargaining agreement process.

B. Appeal Procedure For Term-Limited Temporary Employees. A term-limited temporary employee who exceeds his or her term may appeal to the committee to have the body of work converted to a career service position. The committee shall decide whether the body of work still warrants a term-limited temporary position designation or should be converted to a career service position. If a majority of the committee finds that the body of work should continue as a term-limited temporary position, the employee may appeal within ten days from the date of receipt of the committee's finding by filing a notice of appeal with the committee. In the event of a tie vote, the appeal shall be deemed to prevail. The appeal process shall be the same as for part-time and temporary employees (other than probationary and provisional employees), provided, however, if the employee prevails in the appeal, the employee shall be placed in a career service position, not a provisional appointment, and the employee shall not be required to serve a probationary period. (Ord. 12943 § 17, 1997).

3.12A.060 Termination. Nothing in this chapter shall restrict King County's ability to terminate part-time and temporary employees who exceed the calendar year working hour thresholds or term-limited temporary employees who exceed the calendar years threshold set forth in the definitions contained in K.C.C. 3.12; provided, however, that if an employee seeks conversion of their position by appeal to the committee, termination of that employee for reasons related to the appeal shall be deferred until the conclusion of the appeal process described herein. If the employee's appeal is successful, the employee shall not be terminated but rather be assigned to a position as required by the appeal process described herein. (Ord. 12943 § 18, 1997).

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**Chapter 3.12F
FURLOUGHS**

Sections:

- 3.12F.010 Definitions.
- 3.12F.020 Proclamation of emergency budget crisis - ratification - powers - notice.
- 3.12F.040 Administration of furlough - duties - principles - filling of orders - exceptions.
- 3.12F.050 Collective Bargaining position not affected.
- 3.12F.060 Reports.

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3.12F.010 Definitions. The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

- A. "Budgetary furlough" has the same meaning as found in K.C.C. 3.12.010.
- B. "Emergency budget crisis" or "financial emergency" means a circumstance in which projected county revenues are determined to be insufficient to fully fund county agency operations and significant cost savings must be achieved through reductions in services and pay.
- C. "Furlough day" has the same meaning as found in K.C.C. 3.12.010.
- D. "Furloughed employee" has the same meaning as found in K.C.C. 3.12.010.
- E. "Furlough administrator" means: the county executive for the executive departments; the chair of the council for the legislative branch; the prosecutor for the office of the prosecuting attorney; the presiding judges of the district and superior courts; the sheriff for the sheriff's office; the assessor for the department of assessments; the director of elections for the department of elections; the chair of the forecast council for the office of economic and financial analysis; or the official or officials designated by that branch or unit of county government.
- F. "Furlough replacement time" means leave time that benefit-eligible nonrepresented furloughed employees receive which is an amount equivalent to the time that they were furloughed in 2009.
- G. "Salaried employee" means an employee whose position is normally exempt from wage and hours regulations. (Ord. 16788 § 2, 2010: Ord. 16735 § 16, 2009: Ord. 16391 § 19, 2009: Ord. 16339 § 17, 2008).

3.12F.020 Proclamation of emergency budget crisis - ratification - powers - notice.

- A. Whenever the executive determines that an emergency budget crisis exists in King County, the executive may proclaim in writing the existence of such an emergency. The executive shall transmit a proclamation and proposed ratifying ordinance to the council within seven days of the proclamation. A proclamation is effective only if ratified by ordinance. A proclamation of an emergency budget crisis remains in effect for all or a portion of one annual budget cycle.
- B. Whenever the council determines that an emergency budget crisis exists in King County, it may by ordinance declare the existence of such an emergency. A declaration of an emergency budget crisis remains in effect for all or a portion of one annual budget cycle.
- C. Upon a proclaimed and ratified or declared emergency budget crisis, the executive may:
 - 1. Order a budgetary furlough, including the furlough of employees of the executive branch and closure of county offices;
 - 2. Order the reduction in hours or the closure of county offices on specific days associated with a budgetary furlough; or
 - 3. Order any other actions relating to employees in K.C.C. Title 3.
- D. If an emergency budget crisis has been proclaimed and ratified or declared and furlough days are ordered, the executive shall notify the public of days that county offices are closed by posting the information on the county buildings or offices that are closed, by posting a notice on the Internet, by advertising in the official county newspaper and by issuing press releases. (Ord. 16735 § 17, 2009: Ord. 16339 § 18, 2008).

3.12F.040 Administration of furlough - duties - principles - filing of orders - exceptions.

- A.1. When a furlough administrator other than the executive has determined that a budgetary furlough is necessary, the furlough administrator shall designate a person to administer the budgetary furlough and to provide for the effective direction, control and coordination of a budgetary furlough in a manner to preserve county functions.
- 2. The county administrative officer shall be responsible for budgetary furlough administration in the executive branch and shall provide for the effective direction, control and coordination of a budgetary furlough in a manner to preserve county functions.
- B. In order to achieve budget savings, a furlough administrator may implement a budgetary furlough for designated nonrepresented employees, and implement reductions in operating and office hours, closure of offices or departments or reductions in levels of operations or service. A furlough administrator shall seek and document the views of affected nonrepresented employees when determining whether and how to implement a budgetary furlough.

C. If a furlough administrator directs reductions in operating and office hours, closures of offices or departments or reductions in levels or service that result in budgetary furloughs for represented employees, the executive shall fulfill all applicable bargaining obligations with labor unions representing the employees in those departments before the implementation of a furlough.

D. In administering a budgetary furlough, the following principles should apply:

1. An employee who is furloughed should be notified of furlough in writing when possible, although any reasonable notice is permissible;

2. During a furlough period, a furloughed employee remains a King County employee subject to K.C.C. chapter 3.04;

3. A furloughed employee shall not volunteer to do what the county otherwise pays any employee to do;

4. Medical, dental, vision and any other insured benefits shall remain in effect for a furloughed benefit-eligible employee during a furlough period;

5. A furloughed employee shall not be eligible to take or be paid for vacation or sick leave on a budgetary furlough day. The furlough administrator may designate that paid vacation leave is available for the following employees:

a. those employees earning equal or less than two times the federal poverty index; and

b. those employees enrolled in the Public Employees' Retirement System or the city of Seattle retirement systems who submit to the chief administrative officer or the furlough administrator a letter of intent to retire during the succeeding two calendar years; and

6. A salaried employee is considered an hourly employee for each week in which the employee observes one or more furlough days and must track and report his or her hours and follow standard hourly work practices.

E. Benefit-eligible nonrepresented employees furloughed in 2009 will receive the equivalent of the time on furlough in furlough replacement time. In administering furlough replacement time for benefit-eligible nonrepresented employees, the following principles apply:

1. Furlough replacement time may not be provided to employees when the county is in an officially declared and council-sanctioned emergency budget crisis;

2. One half of the furlough replacement time will be awarded in the first year following an emergency budget crisis and one half of the furlough replacement time will be awarded in the second year following an emergency budget crisis, unless the county is in an officially declared and council sanctioned financial emergency;

3. Furlough replacement time must be used by the employee in the year that it is issued to the employee. An employee who was not employed by King County in 2009 shall not receive furlough replacement time. An employee who left King County employment before the effective date of this ordinance shall not receive furlough replacement time. Furlough replacement time may not be carried over to another calendar year, it may not be cashed out, it has no cash value and it may not be donated; and

4. The furlough administrator must provide for the effective direction, control and coordination of furlough replacement time. (Ord. 16755 § 3, 2010: Ord. 16735 § 19, 2009: Ord. 16339 § 20, 2008).

3.12F.050 Collective bargaining position not affected. No provision of this chapter affects the collective bargaining position of the exclusive bargaining representatives of any employee or of the county. (Ord. 16339 § 21, 2008).

3.12.060 Reports.

A. In any year for which an emergency budget crisis has been proclaimed and ratified or declared, or for which any furlough administrator orders budgetary furlough days, the furlough administrator shall provide the council with a report of the implementation plan for the budget furlough by January 30. The report shall include:

1. Efforts to notify the public of the budget furlough and the closure of county offices or sites;
2. The number of employees who have been furloughed;
3. The length of the furlough;
4. The number of employees exempted from the furlough and the reasons for the exemption;
5. The anticipated budget savings from the furlough;
6. The anticipated effects of the furlough on both workload and service to the public and other county agencies; and
7. A summary of input received from nonrepresented employees on whether and how to implement a budgetary furlough.

B. A furlough administrator who orders a budget furlough shall provide the council with a report on the effects of the furlough by June 30 of the furlough year. The report shall contain the same information required by subsection A. of this section.

C. The reports required by this section must be filed in electronic format and in the form of twelve paper copies with the clerk for the council, who shall retain the original and forward the paper copies to each councilmember and the chief of staff. (Ord. 16735 § 20, 2009).

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Chapter 3.13
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT EMPLOYEE AWARDS PROGRAM

Sections:

- 3.13.015 Quality improvement employee awards program established - awards committee - administration and support - annual report to council.
- 3.13.020 Eligibility criteria - employee eligibility - project eligibility -- recommendations.
- 3.13.030 Evaluation criteria.
- 3.13.040 Monetary and non-monetary awards.
- 3.13.045 Administration.
- 3.13.055 Expiration.
- 3.13.060 Continuation of suggestion system under Resolution No. 4278.

3.13.015 Quality improvement employee awards program established - awards committee - administration and support - annual reports to council.

A. There is hereby created a quality improvement employee awards program. The program is established to offer recognition to quality improvement work teams or individuals whose efforts improve the delivery of services to county residents and/or achieve cost savings while maintaining or bettering the present quality of service delivery.

B. An awards committee is hereby established to evaluate quality improvements and cost savings and to determine monetary and non-monetary awards consistent with the provisions of this chapter. The awards committee shall be comprised of an appointee of the council, a representative of the executive, the chief budget officer in the executive branch, and four representatives from executive departments appointed by the executive. The chief budget officer shall serve as the chair of the committee and shall convene meetings of the committee as necessary to conduct business but not less than quarterly.

C. The executive shall establish administrative guidelines for the program. The executive shall ensure that each department director supports the program and provides adequate resources, within appropriations, to support the program.

D. By March 1, 1997, and March 1 of every year thereafter, the executive shall submit a report to the council on the previous year's achievements and awards under the program and recommendations for improvements to the program. (Ord. 14941 § 2, 2004: Ord. 12014 § 38, 1995).

3.13.020 Eligibility criteria - employee eligibility - project eligibility -- recommendations.

A. Participation in the quality improvement employee awards program shall be limited to full-time regular and part-time regular employees, but shall not apply to those employees who are subject to the productivity incentive program and the productivity initiative for the wastewater program under K.C.C. 28.86.200.

B. Quality improvements eligible for award are those that demonstrate measurable improvements in one or more of the following areas:

1. Improved operating methods or procedures, resulting in increased productivity;
2. Improved customer or employee satisfaction;
3. Improved cycle time or efficiency;
4. Increased revenue;
5. Decreased costs; or
6. Conservation of resources.

C. Department directors and division managers may recommend to the awards committee awarding work teams and individual employees whose projects and suggestions meet the established criteria. The administrative guidelines established by the executive shall identify other means by which employees may nominate work teams and individual employees for evaluation and awards. (Ord. 14941 § 3, 2004: Ord. 12014 § 39, 1995).

3.13.030 Evaluation criteria.

A. Quality improvement projects and employee suggestions will be evaluated on the extent to which the following goals are achieved:

1. A demonstrable and quantifiable improvement in operating methods or procedures, resulting in an increase in efficiency or productivity;
2. A demonstrable increase in the quality of service delivery to the county's internal or external customers resulting in improved customer or employee satisfaction; and
3. A demonstrable, quantifiable resource savings or cost avoidance.

B. The awards committee may identify and use other criteria as they may relate to cost, productivity, efficiency and quality improvement. (Ord. 12014 § 40, 1995).

3.13.040 Monetary and non-monetary awards.

A. The awards committee is authorized to make monetary awards up to \$500 per employee and non-monetary awards to quality improvement work teams and individuals whose projects and suggestions meet the established criteria. Monetary awards in excess of \$500 per employee shall be approved by the executive, but in no case shall exceed \$5,000 per employee. Award winners will be named on a semi-annual basis. Written notice of such awards shall be provided to members of the council.

B. Quality improvement work teams and individuals chosen to receive awards shall be eligible for tickets to sporting events, symphony, theater, concerts or other like events, one day of paid leave for each team member, and other forms of non-monetary recognition.

C. All winning teams and individuals will be invited to an annual awards luncheon to be hosted by the executive, councilmembers, and other county officials. (Ord. 12014 § 41, 1995).

3.13.045 Administration. The executive shall make information concerning the quality improvement employee awards program available to employees at the time of hire, and shall require all directors and managers to post information on this program in a prominent place in each department, office and division. (Ord. 12014 § 42, 1995).

3.13.055 Expiration. The quality improvement employee awards program will be evaluated after two years to determine the extent to which the delivery of services to county residents has been improved and cost savings have been achieved while maintaining or bettering the quality of service delivery. In addition, the evaluation shall consider employee and management satisfaction with the program. The executive shall submit the two-year evaluation report to the council and make recommendations on changes to improve the program. (Ord. 12014 § 43, 1995).

3.13.060 Continuation of suggestion system under Resolution No. 4278. The suggestion system established by Resolution No. 4278 of the council of the Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle and the administrative rules issued pursuant to said resolution shall apply to suggestions submitted on or prior to December 31, 1995 by employees in the former department of metropolitan services. Such suggestions shall be evaluated pursuant to said resolution and administrative rules. Monetary awards for such suggestions shall be subject to approval by the executive; provided, that such awards shall be within appropriations. (Ord. 12014 § 44, 1995).

Chapter 3.13A
DEPARTMENT OF ADULT DETENTION*

Sections:

3.13A.060 Training - Correction officers.

3.13A.060 Training - Corrections officers. The department of adult detention shall operate in accordance with the following policies:

A. An initial 120 hours of training will be provided after appointment in which the new corrections officer will be assigned to the training supervisor and will not be available for regular shift assignment. During this initial training period, the new corrections officer will be trained in the field of adult detention and corrections with attention given to the procedures and policies of the county jail.

B. Newly hired corrections officers will receive training as required by the State of Washington. (Ord. 9684 § 1, 1990).

*Renamed department of adult and juvenile detention in Ordinance 14561 § 8, 2002.

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Chapter 3.14
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

Sections:

- 3.14.010 Powers assigned.
- 3.14.020 Removals, suspensions, and demotions.
- 3.14.030 Secretary/chief examiner.
- 3.14.040 Rules and regulations.

3.14.010 Powers assigned. The powers and duties of the sheriff's civil service commission under Chapter 41.14 RCW are hereby assigned to the office of human resources management except those powers and duties set forth in RCW 41.14.120. (Ord. 12014 § 46, 1995).

3.14.020 Removals, suspensions, and demotions. The sheriff's civil service commission shall continue to hear and decide cases regarding removals, suspensions, and demotions as provided in RCW 41.14.120. (Ord. 8179 § 2, 1987).

3.14.030 Secretary/chief examiner. The position of secretary/chief examiner of the sheriff's civil service commission is hereby abolished as of the effective date of this chapter. Any functions which have heretofore been performed by said secretary/chief examiner are hereby assigned to the director of the office of human resources management. (Ord. 12014 § 47, 1995).

3.14.040 Rules and regulations.

A. Rules and regulations for the administration of the sheriff's personnel system shall be adopted and amended by the county council by ordinance. The director of the office of human resources management is directed to promulgate administrative guidelines for the purpose of implementing such rules and regulations and the requirements of Chapter 41.14 RCW.

B. Except to the extent they are inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter, the current rules and regulations of the sheriff's civil service commission, which are on file with the clerk of the council, are hereby incorporated by this reference and made a part hereof and adopted for the administration of the sheriff's personnel system. The executive shall review such rules and regulations and report periodically to the council proposing such amendments thereto as may be appropriate to bring such rules into substantial conformance with general county personnel rules insofar as permitted by Chapter 41.14 RCW. (Ord. 12014 § 48, 1995).

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Chapter 3.15
PAY PLAN AND CLASSIFICATIONS OF POSITIONS

Sections:

- 3.15.005 Definitions
- 3.15.020 Procedures—schedule of pay ranges—salary schedule—within-range pay increases.
- 3.15.025 Classification plan.
- 3.15.030 Reclassification and reassignment of pay ranges.
- 3.15.040 Classification changes.
- 3.15.050 Designations or professional licenses.
- 3.15.060 Administration.
- 3.15.070 Confirmation.
- 3.15.080 Court Commissioners and Administrators.
- 3.15.100 Minimum wages.
- 3.15.110 Salary limitations.
- 3.15.120 Pay on initial employment.
- 3.15.130 Pay on promotion.
- 3.15.140 Assignment to special duty.
- 3.15.150 Biweekly pay cycle - transition.
- 3.15.160 Biweekly pay cycle - transition payments.
- 3.15.170 Biweekly pay cycle - transition payment amount.
- 3.15.180 Biweekly pay cycle - transition payment amount - repayment by deductions - recourse.
- 3.15.200 Chapter not a contract.

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3.15.005 Definitions. The definitions in K.C.C. 3.12.010 apply to this chapter. (Ord. 14233 § 3, 2001).

3.15.020 Procedures—schedule of pay ranges—salary schedule—within-range pay increases. This section applies to all positions in the executive branch, noncommissioned positions in the office of the sheriff and the department of assessments allocated to a classification approved by the council.

A.1. Except as otherwise provided by ordinance, the schedule of pay ranges shall consist of ninety-nine pay ranges, each containing ten steps as approved by ordinance annually.

2. On a continuing three-year cycle, the executive shall assess market conditions and determine whether to make adjustments, if any, to pay ranges assigned to existing classifications.

B. Consistent with K.C.C. 3.12.350, the manager of the human resources management division shall establish guidelines for pay increases in accordance with the following:

1. Employees may receive within-range increases from one step to the next higher step upon satisfactory completion of the probationary period. All probationary-period pay increases must be supported by documented performance appraisal. Probationary-period pay increases exceeding Step 5 must have prior written approvals by the department director and the manager of the human resources management division. In the event of the completion of the probationary period by a division of human resources employee, the county administrative officer must provide prior written approval for probationary-period pay increases exceeding Step 5. A written report listing the number of employees who have received probationary increases above Step 5 must be filed with the clerk of the council for distribution to the chair of the labor, operations and technology committee or its successor committee on February 15 and August 15 of each year;

2. Employees may be eligible to receive increases annually in accordance with the following principles:

a. An incentive increase must be supported by an annual documented performance appraisal approved by the department director, or his or her designee, and the documented performance appraisal must be maintained in the employee's personnel file. Incentive increases shall be prospective only and shall be effective on January 1 following the year on which the appraisal was based;

b. For employees currently in Steps 1 through 4 in the pay range, the appointing authority may grant an increase of a single step for standard performance and may grant an increase exceeding a single step for above-standard or outstanding performance, as defined by the manager of the human resources management division;

c. For employees currently in Steps 5 through 7 in the pay range, the appointing authority may grant an increase of one or more steps for above-standard performance; and

d. For employees currently in Steps 8 through 9 in the pay range, the appointing authority may grant an increase of one step, not to exceed the top of the pay range, for outstanding performance;

3. An appointing authority may grant an employee incentive pay up to five percent above the top step of the range for a period of twelve months, if all of the following conditions are met:

a. the employee is not a department director;

b. the employee has been at the top step of the prior or current range for two years before the award of the increase; and

c. the employee has demonstrated continuous outstanding performance;

4. All incentive increases are subject to the availability of funds. Within-range incentive increases are not automatic but shall be given only upon the written direction of the appointing authority, as defined in K.C.C. 3.12.010B, within the guidelines established by the manager of the human resources management division;

5.a. When the manager of the human resources management division reclassifies a position to a higher classification, the pay rate of the incumbent employee shall be increased to the first step of the pay range of the new classification or the nearest step that constitutes an increase of no more than five percent above the former rate of pay, whichever is greater.

b. A pay increase as a result of reclassification may not exceed the top step of the new range, unless the employee's former pay includes an above-Step-10 amount as a result of an incentive increase. If the employee's former pay includes an above-Step-10 amount as a result of an incentive increase, the employee's new pay is calculated upon the above-Step-10 amount. If the increase from reclassification results in pay that is above the top step of the new range, the pay shall be reduced to the top step of the new range at the end of the incentive period unless the employee requalifies for an above-Step-10 incentive award.

c. Implementation of a reclassification and any related pay change shall be prospective and is effective when the classification is approved by the manager of the human resources management division. The pay increase as a result of reclassification may not exceed five percent above the top step in any case; and

6. When the manager of the human resources management division adjusts the pay range of a classification, the incumbent employee shall be placed at the same step in the new pay range as the employee was in the previous range. Implementation of any pay range adjustment shall be prospective and is effective when approved by the manager of the human resources management division or, if required by K.C.C. 3.15.040, by the labor, operations and technology committee or its successor committee. (Ord. 14801 § 3, 2003: Ord. 14233 § 4, 2001: Ord. 14012 § 1, 2000: Ord. 12014 § 50, 1995).

3.15.025 Classification plan.

A. The manager of the human resources management division shall develop and maintain a classification plan for all positions within the career service system. The plan shall provide that all positions that are substantially similar as to kind, difficulty and responsibility of work are included in the same classification.

B. The classification plan should set forth for each career service classification a title, a definition, distinguishing characteristics, representative examples of work and the knowledge and skills necessary to perform the work.

C. The manager of the human resources management division should, on a continuing three-year cycle, review the classification plan, and may add, combine, abolish or revise the specifications or establish new classifications, as provided in K.C.C. 3.12.040.

D. Whenever reorganization, change in job content or council action causes the duties of a position to change, or a position appears to have been incorrectly classified, the manager of the human resources management division may reclassify the position to a more appropriate classification. (Ord. 14801 § 7, 2003: Ord. 12014 § 51, 1995. Formerly K.C.C. 3.15.045).

3.15.030 Reclassifications and reassignment of pay ranges. The manager of the human resources management division may reclassify any position to an existing or new classification and reassign pay ranges to existing classifications. (Ord. 14801 § 4, 2003: Ord. 12014 § 52, 1995).

3.15.040 Classification changes. The manager of the human resources management division may abolish, amend or create new classifications, except as provided in this section. The assignment or reassignment of pay ranges to a classification or classifications is subject to K.C.C. 3.15.020. A request for the creation of any classification applicable to regular exempt positions, as defined in K.C.C. 3.12.010, or any pay range adjustments for classifications exceeding Range 54 or movements of four or more pay ranges for an existing classification or any pay range adjustment affecting two or more classifications in a classification series, shall be filed with the clerk of the council for distribution to the chair of the labor, operations and technology committee, or its successor committee, and confirmed by the committee before implementation. (Ord. 14801 § 5, 2003: Ord. 7996 § 10, 1987: Ord. 7394 § 10, 1985: Ord. 6627 § 15, 1983: Ord. 6142 § 11, 1982: Ord. 5443 § 10, 1981: Ord. 4871 § 12, 1980: Ord. 4160 § 11, 1979: Ord. 3632 § 11, 1978: Ord. 3083 § 12, 1977: Ord. 2685 § 12, 1976: Ord. 2277 § 11, 1975: Ord. 2179 § 11, 1974: Ord. 1892 § 11, 1974: Ord. 1780 § 4, 1973: Ord. 1282 § 5, 1972).

3.15.050 Designations or professional licenses. An employee who has a valid Washington State Professional Civil Engineering license, a registered architect's license or a professional designation of CPA, MAI, RM, SSA, CPM or SR/WA, shall be paid an additional twenty-five dollars per month if such designation or professional license is a requirement of the job assignment. (Ord. 7996 § 11, 1987: Ord. 7394 § 11, 1985: Ord. 6627 § 16, 1983: Ord. 6142 § 12, 1982: Ord. 5443 § 11, 1981: Ord. 4871 § 13, 1980: Ord. 4160 § 12, 1979: Ord. 3632 § 12, 1978: Ord. 3083 § 13, 1977: Ord. 2685 § 13, 1976: Ord. 2277 § 12, 1975: Ord. 2179 § 12, 1974: Ord. 1892 § 12, 1974: Ord. 1780 § 3, 1973).

3.15.060 Administration. The administration of the pay provisions set forth herein will be the responsibility of the county executive. (Ord. 7996 § 12, 1987: Ord. 7394 § 12, 1985: Ord. 6627 § 17, 1983: Ord. 6142 § 13, 1982: Ord. 5443 § 12, 1981: Ord. 4871 § 14, 1980: Ord. 4160 § 13, 1979: Ord. 3632 § 13, 1978: Ord. 3083 § 14, 1977: Ord. 2685 § 14, 1976: Ord. 2277 § 13, 1975: Ord. 2179 § 13, 1974: Ord. 1892 § 13, 1974: Ord. 1282 § 6, 1972).

3.15.070 Confirmation. Pay range assignments shall be subject to confirmation by ordinance by the King County council at least annually. (Ord. 7996 § 13, 1987: Ord. 7394 § 13, 1985: Ord. 6627 § 18, 1983: Ord. 6142 § 14, 1982: Ord. 5443 § 13, 1981: Ord. 4871 § 15, 1980: Ord. 4160 § 14, 1979: Ord. 3632 § 14, 1978: Ord. 3083 § 15, 1977: Ord. 2685 § 15, 1976: Ord. 2277 § 14, 1975: Ord. 2179 § 14, 1974: Ord. 1892 § 14, 1974: Ord. 1282 § 7, 1972).

3.15.080 Court Commissioners and Administrators.

A. Effective September 1, 1987 the annual salary for the Superior Court Commissioners shall be ninety-five (95%) per cent of that set by law for Superior Court Judges. The Superior Court Administrator's salary will be determined by the Superior Court Judges at ninety-five (95%) per cent of that set for Superior Court Commissioners.

B. Effective September 1, 1987, the annual salary for the District Court Administrator shall be 90 (90%) per cent of that set by law for the District Court Judges. (Ord. 8299, 1987).

3.15.100 Minimum wages.

A. No employee of the county working full-time, part-time or temporary shall be paid at any rate less than that mandated by federal and state law, whichever is higher.

B. No contractor or subcontractor doing business with the county or furnishing workers or services in connection thereof shall pay any employee performing any work for such business with the county less than that mandated by the state law.

C. The terms of this section are not applicable to volunteer or quasi volunteer EMS workers, or to volunteer election workers provided by non-profit agencies. (Ord. 12014 § 53, 1995).

3.15.110 Salary limitations. Except for annual step incentive increases provided for in this chapter or as otherwise provided by ordinance, no employee's salary shall be greater than the amount applicable to the top step of the pay range assigned to the employee's classification. (Ord. 12014 § 54, 1995).

3.15.120 Pay on initial employment.

A.1. New county employees shall start at the first step of the pay range. If necessary for recruitment, however, a department director may authorize an offer of a higher pay step.

2. At least one of the following criteria must be met to hire an employee above the first step:

- a. The candidate's education and experience are significantly above the minimum requirements for the position;
- b. The candidate has an especially desirable skill, talent, knowledge or ability;
- c. The candidate has a current salary that is above the first step of the of the salary range; or
- d. The candidate has a competing written, formal offer of employment that is above the first step of the salary range.

3. If a department director determines it is necessary to hire an employee above the first step, a copy of the appointment letter, together with a statement of the reason for hiring the employee above the first step, must be provided to the manager of the human resources management division at the time of hire.

B. The county administrative officer may approve the hiring of an employee above Step 5. In such cases, the county administrative officer must issue prior written approval to the department director and send a copy of the written notification to the executive.

C. The executive shall report in writing filed with the clerk of the council for distribution to the chair of the labor, operations and technology committee, or its successor committee, on the number of instances when employees are hired above Step 5 on February 15 and August 15 of each year. (Ord. 14801 § 9, 2003; Ord. 14233 § 5, 2001).

3.15.130 Pay on promotion.

A.1. A pay increase as a result of reclassification may not exceed the top step of the new range, unless the employee's former pay includes an above-Step-10 amount as a result of an incentive increase. If the employee's former pay includes an above-Step-10 amount as a result of an incentive increase, the employee's new pay is calculated upon the above-Step-10 amount. If the increase from reclassification results in pay that is above the top step of the new range, the pay shall be reduced to the top step of the new range at the end of the incentive period unless the employee requalifies for an above-Step-10 incentive award.

2. Implementation of a reclassification and any related pay change shall be prospective and is effective when the classification is approved by the manager of the human resources management division. The pay increase as a result of reclassification may not exceed five percent above the top step in any case.

B. If a promotion results from something other than a reclassification, the promoted employee may be placed at a higher step in the pay range when the department director determines this action is warranted, if the criteria and procedures in K.C.C. 3.15.120 are met and if funds are available in the agency. (Ord. 14801 § 10, 2003; Ord. 14233 § 6, 2001).

3.15.140 Assignment to special duty.

A. An appointing authority, with the prior written approval of the department director and the manager of the human resources management division, or his or her designee, may temporarily assign an employee to an existing higher-level classification when the higher-level duties and responsibilities comprise the majority of the work performed.

B. The maximum period of special duty is six months, except as provided in this section.

1. A special duty assignment may be extended to a maximum of twelve months if authorized in advance in writing by the department director and the manager of the human resources management division before the expiration of the initial six-month period.

2. Any further extensions must be authorized in writing in advance by the department director and the county administrative officer based upon a specific determination that a special duty assignment continues to meet the requirements stated in this chapter and that a position reclassification is not appropriate. Such cases shall only include back-filling for a regular position when:

(a) an incumbent employee is absent because of an extended leave of absence for a medical disability, as required under reasonable accommodation provisions of applicable state or federal law;

(b) it is military reserve duty; or

(c) it is the performance of a project when a higher level of work has a definite termination date. Special duty assignments may not exceed two years in duration.

C. A special duty assignment must be made in writing to the employee before the beginning of the assignment. The written notice must provide the classification title and description and must list the specific duties that the employee is to perform and the duration of the assignment. The written notice must also include a statement that the assignment will not confer on the employee any new privilege, right of appeal, right of position, transfer, demotion, promotion or reinstatement. A special duty assignment may be revoked at any time at the discretion of the appointing authority. Special duty pay may not be assigned retroactively.

D. The special duty increase shall be to the first step of the pay range of the existing higher-level job classification or to a pay step in the existing higher classification that provides an increase of no more than five percent above the former rate of pay, whichever is greater.

E. Special duty compensation may not exceed the top step of the new range if the employee was receiving above-Step-10 incentive pay. In those instances, the pay may exceed the maximum of the new pay range by no more than five percent and shall continue only as long as the incentive pay would have remained in effect.

F. When the special duty assignment is completed, the employee's pay shall revert to the pay rate the employee would have received if the employee had not been assigned to special duty.

G. Special duty pay shall not be considered part of an employee's base pay rate for purposes of placement within a salary range as a result of promotion or reclassification. (Ord. 14801 § 11, 2003: Ord. 14233 § 7, 2001)

3.15.150 Biweekly pay cycle - transition. County officers and employees currently paid on a semimonthly pay cycle shall be transitioned to a biweekly pay cycle in one or more groups on or after January 1, 2011. The biweekly payroll process shall provide that county officers and employees receive their compensation not later than thirteen days following the end of each two-week pay period for services rendered during that pay period. (Ord. 16818 § 1, 2010).

3.15.160 Biweekly pay cycle - transition payments.

A. When a county officer or employee's payroll is transitioning from a semimonthly pay cycle to a biweekly pay cycle, the executive is authorized to allow county officers and employees the option to elect to receive a transition payment, as set forth in K.C.C. 3.15.170, if they meet the qualifications in subsection B. of this section.

B. County officers and employees who meet the following qualifications, on the date(s) selected by the county administrative officer are eligible to elect a transition payment. Eligible county officers and employees are those who:

1. Are eligible for leave and insured benefits as provided for in K.C.C. 3.12.040;
2. Are not serving a probationary period;
3. Are in a paid status;
4. Are employed in a position that is scheduled to be funded and filled for approximately one year after the date or dates selected by the county administrative officer;
5. Have elected to receive the transition payment by the date or dates selected by the county administrative officer; and
6. Have agreed and, if applicable, whose spouse or state registered domestic partner have agreed, in writing, to repay the county for the amount of the transition payment as set forth in section 4 of this Ordinance. (Ord. 16818 § 2, 2010).

3.15.170 Biweekly pay cycle - transition payment amount. The amount of the transition payment for an eligible employee shall be equivalent to the dollar amount reached by multiplying the employee's base rate of pay by the number of standard work hours in one work week, not inclusive of overtime. In calculating the transition payment, an employee's base rate of pay excludes any type of premium pay. Excluded premium payments include but are not limited to payments for shift differential, certification, merit, or any other type of additional pay. (16818 § 3, 2010).

3.15.180 Biweekly pay cycle - transition payment amount - repayment by deductions - recourse.

A. Repayment of the transition amount shall be made to the county no later than the end of the fiscal year within which the transition amount was paid. The repayment shall be by deductions from the employee's paychecks in equal installments. If an employee leaves county employment before completion of repayment of the full transition payment amount, the outstanding balance shall be paid in full by the following methods:

1. A deduction from the final paycheck owed to the employee when the employee leaves employment; and if further payment is owed, then by
2. A deduction from any other payment owed to the employee; and if further payment is owed, then by
3. A payment directly to the county by the employee or, if applicable, the employee's spouse or state registered domestic partner.

B. If the deductions or payments under this section do not pay the full outstanding balance, the county reserves the right to refer any unpaid amount to a collection agency or to pursue other legal means for repayment. (16818 § 4, 2010).

3.15.200 Chapter not a contract. This chapter does not constitute an express or implied contract. It is a general statement of county policy that cannot form the basis of a private right of action. (Ord. 14801 § 12, 2003).

Chapter 3.16
LABOR AND EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

Sections:

- 3.16.005 Purpose.
- 3.16.010 Bargaining agent designated.
- 3.16.012 Mission.
- 3.16.015 Definitions.
- 3.16.020 Powers.
- 3.16.025 General provisions.
- 3.16.030 Prior acts confirmed.
- 3.16.040 Time limit.
- 3.16.045 Corrections officers.
- 3.16.050 Labor policy committee functions.
- 3.16.055 Labor implementation committee functions.
- 3.16.060 Annual labor summit.
- 3.16.100 Unclassified and exempt employees - sheriff's employees - designation.

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3.16.005 Purpose. The intent and purpose of this chapter is to recognize that there exists a public policy in the State of Washington as well as King County against strikes by essential law enforcement personnel as a means of settling their labor disputes; that such essential law enforcement personnel include corrections officers employed by King County; that the uninterrupted and dedicated service of these employees is vital to the welfare and public safety of the County of King; that to promote such dedicated and uninterrupted public service there should exist an effective and adequate means of settling disputes. (Ord. 10631 § 1, 1992).

3.16.010 Bargaining agent designated. There is established an ordinance for collective bargaining and, pursuant to the provisions of Section 890 of the King County Charter, the King County executive is designated bargaining agent for King County. (Ord. 197 § 1, 1969).

3.16.012 Mission. The mission of the council and the bargaining agent shall be to develop labor relations policy and other policies affecting county employees in accordance with the following principles and consistent with the philosophy, objectives and guidelines found in King County council Motion 9182:

A. Provide a positive climate in King County government where employees feel their contributions are valued, their ideas are heard and their desires to serve the public are fulfilled.

B. Help county employees view King County government as a desirable place to work and as a place where the public business is conducted in a cost-effective manner.

C. Allow the council an adequate and meaningful opportunity to provide policy direction to the bargaining agent before the collective bargaining process begins.

D. Cause King County management to plan, prepare and be accountable for obtaining agreements at the bargaining table concerning operating improvements necessary to best serve the public interest and improve the working conditions for employees.

E. Create and maintain a collective bargaining and employee relations climate in King County government that encourages cooperative efforts and joint problem-solving among bargaining representatives, the bargaining agent, employees and management to address ways to better serve the public, increase productivity, reduce waste, improve safety, improve morale, and recruit and retain quality employees.

F. Acknowledge, encourage and continue the efforts of bargaining units and management to engage in collaborative or interest-based bargaining, which has had the positive effects of reducing the adversarial nature of traditional bargaining and enhancing consensus-making in labor relations. (Ord. 11480 § 5, 1994).

3.16.015 Definitions. Unless the text clearly indicates otherwise, as used in this chapter, the following words shall have the meanings set forth in this section:

A. "Corrections officer" means any full-time, fully compensated uniformed correctional officer or sergeant who works for the department of adult detention (King County jail).

B. "Bargaining representative" means any lawful organization which has as one of its primary purposes the representation of employees in their employment relations with King County.

C. "Bargaining agent" means the King County executive.

D. "Public employer" means King County.

E. "Commission" means the Public Employment Relations Commission.

F. "Executive director" means the executive director of the Commission.

G. "911 operator" means any full-time, fully compensated communications specialist or communications specialist supervisor who works for the department of public safety.

H. "Labor policy committee" or "policy committee" means the King County council committee designated by the council by motion as the committee responsible for establishing labor policy.

I. "Labor implementation committee" or "implementation committee" means the King County council committee designated by the council by motion as the committee responsible for implementing labor policy.

J. "Labor policy" or "policy" means those general principles which work to implement the intent of this chapter and guide negotiations for wages, benefits, working conditions and other terms of employment. (Ord. 14287 § 1, 2002: Ord. 11480 § 3, 1994: Ord. 10631 § 2, 1992).

3.16.020 Powers. The bargaining agent is authorized on behalf of King County to meet, confer and negotiate with bargaining representatives of the public employees of King County for the purpose of collective bargaining as contemplated by chapter 41.56 RCW and Section 890 of the King County Charter, and to timely recommend to the King County council proposed wages, hours, and employee benefits and other conditions of county employment for the purposes of county budgets and such collective bargaining agreement or agreements as may be required and authorized by ordinance. The bargaining agent shall not negotiate new collective bargaining agreements prior to preparing for bargaining and conferring with the labor policy committee as required in K.C.C. 3.16.012, 3.16.025 and 3.16.050. (Ord. 14287 § 2, 2002: Ord. 11480 § 4, 1994: Ord. 197 § 2, 1969).

3.16.025 General provisions.

A. The bargaining agent shall establish and conduct a process to prepare for negotiations that performs at least the following functions:

1. The bargaining agent should continue to use collaborative or interest-based bargaining where both parties agree, and this chapter shall not be construed to restrict or inhibit such bargaining;

2. The bargaining agent shall cause to be developed and maintained a database of information within King County government on wages, hours, employee benefits, vacation and other leave, job classifications and substantial and factual information to provide knowledge of working conditions necessary to conduct effective negotiations. Such information shall be made available to the bargaining representatives to the extent provided by RCW 41.56.030(4), Public Employees' Collective Bargaining law of the state of Washington, as set forth by the collaborative process identified in King County council Motion 9182; and

3. The policy committee and implementation committee shall each confer with the bargaining agent to develop necessary guidelines for the implementation of this section, consistent with this chapter and King County council Motion 9182.

B. The bargaining agent shall be the sole negotiator for King County government and shall bargain in good faith as provided by law. The bargaining agent shall commence and complete collective bargaining negotiations in a timely manner and in accordance with the overall principles and intent of this chapter. (Ord. 14287 § 3, 2002: Ord. 11480 § 7, 1994).

3.16.030 Prior acts confirmed. Any act pursuant to the authority and prior to the effective date of this section is hereby ratified and confirmed. (Ord. 197 § 3, 1969).

3.16.040 Time limit.

A. Any collective bargaining agreement between King County and a recognized bargaining representative as defined in RCW 41.56.030 which has been ratified by both parties shall be transmitted to the King County council no later than 45 days after the tentative agreement has been reached.

B. Failure to meet this deadline shall result in the payment of interest on the retroactive amount of any negotiated salary or wage increase equal to interest earned on Federal 90 day treasury bills from the first day following the deadline through the date the tentative agreement is transmitted to the King County council, unless the 45 days have been extended by mutual agreement by both parties in writing.

C. The interest accrued, if any, shall be divided among the county employees represented by the collective bargaining unit, based upon each employees individual retroactive wage rate increase. The computed interest shall be included in the first pay check which pays out the rate of pay negotiated in the tentative collective bargaining agreement. (Ord. 8658, 1988).

3.16.045 Corrections officers. Application of RCW 41.56.440 - 41.56.470 and RCW 41.56.480 - 41.56.490. In the furtherance of collective bargaining the provisions of RCW 41.56.440 - 41.56.470 and RCW 41.56.480 - 41.56.490 shall also be applicable to corrections officers and 911 operators as defined in this chapter. (Ord. 10631 § 3, 1992).

3.16.050 Labor policy committee functions.

A. The policy committee shall meet as it deems necessary to obtain the testimony of members of the public, the bargaining agent, bargaining representatives or their designees, county department management and others in order to consider such testimony in policy decisions before the committee but shall not engage in bargaining with bargaining representatives or represented employees.

B. The policy committee shall provide an opportunity for bargaining representatives or their designees to address the policy committee prior to the adoption of overall policy. Overall policy, and all amendments to adopted policies, shall be established only upon an affirmative vote by a majority of the members of the policy committee.

C. The bargaining agent shall recommend to the policy committee overall changes to adopted policies that would be required to implement the changes proposed in K.C.C. 3.16.055D, and an overall estimate of the monetary value, if any, of these changes, including both costs and benefits.

D. The bargaining agent may seek further clarification of adopted policies from the policy committee at any time during the negotiations.

E. By June 30 of each year, the executive shall report to the policy committee regarding employment policies applicable to nonrepresented employees.

F. By June 30 of each year, the prosecuting attorney shall, in conjunction with the executive, report to the policy committee on all pending litigation involving nonrepresented employees.

G. For the purpose of maintaining an effective collective bargaining process, the strategies and related information presented by the bargaining agent shall be maintained as confidential. The policy committee shall develop guidelines to assist in accomplishing such confidentiality. (Ord. 14287 § 4, 2002: Ord. 12014 § 55, 1995).

3.16.055 Labor implementation committee functions.

A. The bargaining agent shall report to the implementation committee no later than June 30 of each year on the status and maintenance necessary to comply with the requirement of maintaining a database of information within King County government on wages, hours, employee benefits, vacation and other leave, job classifications and substantial and factual information to provide knowledge of working conditions necessary to conduct effective negotiations.

B.1. A bargaining representative may at any time during negotiations forward to the manager of the human resource management division, or its successor, a written complaint that the collective bargaining process is not being conducted in a timely manner or is not being conducted in a manner consistent with good faith bargaining. The manager shall, within fifteen calendar days, respond in writing to the complaint and propose such remedies as may address the complaint.

2. If the bargaining representative is not satisfied with the written response of the manager, or if a written response to the complaint is not received within fifteen calendar days, the bargaining representative may forward the written complaint to the King County executive, as the bargaining agent, who shall, within fifteen calendar days, respond to it in writing and propose such remedies as may address the complaint.

3. If the bargaining representative is not satisfied with the written response of the bargaining agent, or if a written response is not received from the bargaining agent within fifteen calendar days, the bargaining representative may request that the written complaint be forwarded to the implementation committee.

4. If the bargaining agent receives a written request to have the complaint forwarded to the implementation committee, including an explanation of reasons for the request, the bargaining agent shall forward the request, together with the bargaining agent's written response, to the implementation committee within five calendar days from the receipt of the request. These materials or any discussion thereof shall remain confidential to the extent allowed by law.

5. The implementation committee may request that the bargaining agent meet with the implementation committee for the purpose of reviewing the status of negotiations with regard to the principles contained in this chapter and the overall policy direction established by the policy committee, but the implementation committee shall take no action that would interfere with the lawful role of the bargaining agent.

C. By June 30 of each year, the prosecuting attorney, in conjunction with bargaining agent, shall report to the implementation committee on all pending unfair labor practice charges and all pending litigation and arbitration involving represented employees.

D. By June 30 of each year, or, in the case of agreements expiring other than December 31, at least ninety days before the commencement of negotiations, in preparation for collective bargaining the bargaining agent shall report to the implementation committee the agreements expiring that calendar year. The bargaining agent shall also generally explain existing policies that, if changed, would further the principles and intent established by this chapter. County department management concerned with the collective bargaining process, with the advice of other relevant county departments, shall assist the bargaining agent in reporting to the implementation committee.

E. By June 30 of each year or, for agreements expiring other than December 31, at least ninety days before commencing negotiations, the implementation committee shall meet with the bargaining agent to review the schedule of collective bargaining agreements expiring in that calendar year and the key issues related to the collective bargaining process. Methods of consultation with unions, management rights and eliminating the causes of employee grievances shall also be considered.

F. Following the establishment of overall policy, and before commencing negotiations, the implementation committee shall meet to hear the bargaining agent's recommended strategies for implementing adopted policies. The implementation committee shall confer with the bargaining agent as it deems necessary to ensure compliance with this chapter and good-faith collective bargaining. The bargaining agent's strategies shall be generally consistent with the principles contained in this chapter and the overall policy direction established by the policy committee.

G. The implementation committee shall meet at least quarterly to review the progress of the negotiations but shall not interfere with good-faith collective bargaining.

H. The implementation committee shall review all agreements negotiated between the bargaining agent and bargaining representatives to ensure compliance with the principles contained in this chapter and with the overall policy direction established by the policy committee. The implementation committee may recommend to the council adoption or rejection of agreements or it may forward agreements to the council for action without recommendation.

I. For the purpose of maintaining an effective collective bargaining process, the strategies and related information presented by the bargaining agent shall be maintained as confidential. The implementation committee shall develop guidelines to assist in accomplishing such confidentiality. (Ord. 14287 § 5, 2002).

3.16.060 Annual labor summit. The chair of the King County council shall annually convene a summit between the county's elected officials and the local labor leadership and the leadership of all collective bargaining units representing the county's work force. Such a labor summit shall take place between January 1 and July 1 of each given year. The intent of convening an annual labor summit shall be to: increase communication between King County elected officials and the leadership and membership of local labor organizations and of all the county's collective bargaining units; identify issues and problems of mutual concern; identify solutions to problems affecting the memberships of the county's collective bargaining units; delineate ways in which the county's elected officials may more closely and effectively work with the county's collective bargaining units and local labor organizations to attain mutual goals; and foster a spirit of cooperation in working to serve the public.

Meeting minutes at the summit shall be recorded and adopted by the King County council at a subsequent regular meeting of the council. (15196 § 1, 2005 Ord. 14337 § 1, 2002: Ord. 14287 § 6, 2002: Ord. 13000 § 2, 1998).

3.16.100 Unclassified and exempt employees - sheriff's employees - designation.

A. By the power conferred upon the county legislative authority in RCW 41.14.070, the council authorizes the following number of positions as unclassified and exempt from the state civil service system for county sheriff's employees:

1. Office of the sheriff: five positions;
2. Patrol operations division: six positions;
3. Support services division: two positions;
4. Criminal investigation division: one position;
5. Professional standards division: two positions;
6. Sound Transit division: one position; and
7. Metro Transit division: one position.

B. RCW 41.14.070 grants the sheriff the ability to designate ten unclassified positions that are exempt from the state civil service system for sheriff's employees. By the power conferred upon the county legislative authority in RCW 41.14.070(4), the sheriff's office is authorized two additional unclassified positions for a total of twenty unclassified positions. (Ord. 16977 § 2, 2010: Ord. 15939 § 3, 2007).

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Chapter 3.24
TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION AND EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

Sections:

- 3.24.010 Definitions.
- 3.24.020 Persons authorized to receive expense reimbursement.
- 3.24.030 Travel authorization.
- 3.24.050 General rules.
- 3.24.060 Transportation costs.
- 3.24.070 Lodging costs.
- 3.24.080 Per diem meal and incidental rates and refreshment costs.
- 3.24.090 Miscellaneous reimbursable expenses.
- 3.24.100 Nonreimbursable expenses.
- 3.24.105 Travel expense advances.
- 3.24.110 Leave of absence during travel.
- 3.24.120 Lobbyist per diem in lieu of reimbursement.
- 3.24.130 Expense reimbursement.
- 3.24.140 Repayment of unauthorized reimbursements.
- 3.24.150 Implementation.
- 3.24.160 Reporting.
- 3.24.170 Reimbursement of moving expenses for certain employees.

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3.24.010 Definitions. All words in this chapter shall have their ordinary and usual meanings except those defined in this section which shall have the meaning set forth below:

A. "Day travel" shall mean travel outside of the county that exceeds six hours but does not include an overnight stay. Travel outside of the county for six hours or less or travel within the county is not considered day travel.

B. "Emergency" shall mean the occurrence of unforeseen or exigent circumstances which may result in harm to the public good.

C. "Employee" shall mean any person who is employed in a career service position or an exempt position as defined in K.C.C. chapter 3.12, except persons serving the county without compensation and members of boards and commissions. "Employee" includes all county elected officials.

D. "Federal lodging limit" shall mean the maximum amount a federal employee may be reimbursed per day for lodging expenses, excluding applicable taxes, in the respective host city for travel within the continental United States as published in the Code of Federal Regulations, 41 CFR §301, App. A, and as hereafter amended.

E. "Government rates" shall mean the discounted rates offered to government employees, in the course of conducting official business, by lodging establishments, rental car agencies and other providers of services to government employees.

F. "Moving expenses" shall mean expenses incurred for transportation of family and common household possessions, including meals and incidentals per diem, automobiles and lodging expenses.

G. "Official county business" shall mean business that relates directly to a person's work function and benefits the county.

H. "Overnight travel" shall mean travel outside of the county that exceeds twelve hours and includes an overnight stay.

I. "Presiding elected official" shall mean the county executive for the executive branch departments, agencies and offices except assessments and public safety; the county assessor for the department of assessments; the prosecuting attorney for the office of the prosecuting attorney; the county sheriff for the department of public safety; the chair of the county council for the legislative branch; and the presiding judges of the superior and district courts, or the official or officials designated by that branch or unit of county government. (Ord. 13257 § 1, 1998: Ord. 12904 § 2, 1997: Ord. 9206 § 1, 1989).

3.24.020 Persons authorized to receive expense reimbursement. This chapter applies to all departments, agencies and offices of the executive branch, including but not limited to the departments of judicial administration, public safety, and assessments; the council and subordinate units of the legislative branch; the office of the prosecuting attorney; the superior and district courts; and the office of economic and financial analysis. For purposes of this chapter, the presiding elected official of the office of economic and financial analysis is the chair of the forecast council. Within budgetary constraints, the following persons are authorized to receive expense reimbursement in conformance with this chapter and are likewise responsible for compliance with the terms of this chapter and any implementing policies and procedures:

A. County employees;

B. Candidates for positions that are exempt from the career service or candidates for positions that require a specialized skill not available in the county job market may be authorized by the presiding elected official, subject to the following restrictions:

1. For travel to the county from their place of residence outside the county to be interviewed.
2. Maximum of five interview trips for a given position during any twelve month period.
3. No candidate for employment is eligible for more than two separate interview trips for a given position.

4. Approval by the presiding elected official is required before an invitation to interview is issued.

C. Persons otherwise authorized by law, grant or contract, provided that the terms of such other expense reimbursement authorization shall apply. (Ord. 16391 § 20, 2009: Ord. 13257 § 2, 1998: Ord. 12077 § 7, 1995).

3.24.030 Travel authorization.

A. Authorization for day or overnight travel or to incur expenses estimated to exceed one hundred dollars shall be obtained in accordance with the established policies and procedures of the respective presiding elected official prior to commencing the activity. Travel plans shall be authorized in advance by the presiding elected official or designee, except when an emergency arises that requires travel to commence within twenty-four hours. If expenses are incurred without prior authorization, the presiding elected official or designee will determine whether an emergency existed and the expenses are reimbursable. The person requesting reimbursement will be responsible for payment of expenses that were incurred without prior authorization and subsequently determined not to constitute an emergency.

B. Persons authorizing travel shall not be subordinate to the requester, shall ensure that the traveler is provided information about the applicable travel expense reimbursement policies prior to incurring travel expenses and shall apply, at a minimum, the criteria outlined below in making decisions on granting or denying such requests:

1. Requested travel shall be for the conduct of official county business. The travel request shall describe the relationship between the travel and work functions and indicate what benefit the county will receive from the travel. Any available printed material indicating the overall content and quality of the event shall be attached to the travel request. The number of persons engaging in a given travel activity shall be the minimum necessary to achieve the expected benefit.

2. Travel requests shall be accompanied by a travel itinerary and itemized list of anticipated expenditures. Expenditure plans must be reasonable and budgeted monies for reimbursement must be available and authorized.

3. For nonmandatory attendance at job-related seminars, conferences, conventions or training, travel may be authorized with reimbursement at less than the rates otherwise authorized, provided that the reduced reimbursement rates are mutually agreed to in writing by the person authorizing the travel and the traveler prior to the travel.

4. If the person is to maintain employment/business status during the travel, travel authorization is required even if the county will not be funding the travel expenses. (Ord. 13257 § 3, 1998: Ord. 9206 § 3, 1989).

3.24.050 General rules.

A. All persons are responsible for exercising prudent judgment to avoid unnecessary county expense. Travel requests and reimbursement claims shall strictly conform to the provisions of this chapter and other applicable laws, grants, contracts or policies.

B. The traveler shall be responsible for excess costs and additional travel expenses resulting from taking an indirect route or delaying the return trip for personal preference or convenience, except that additional travel expenses may be approved and reimbursed if an indirect route or delay reduces the county's total costs. Additional travel expenses paid under this provision are subject to the reimbursement limitations specified in this chapter and, considering both salary and travel expenses, must not exceed the documented savings.

C. The provisions of this chapter shall apply to both domestic and foreign travel, except that the limits on travel expense reimbursements for transportation, lodging, and meals and incidentals, as provided for in K.C.C. 3.24.060 through 3.24.080, shall apply only to travel within the continental United States, which shall consist of the forty-eight contiguous states and the District of Columbia. Transportation, lodging, and meals and incidental expense reimbursement for travel outside the continental United States shall be based upon actual expenses to a maximum of the overseas rates established by the federal General Services Administration for federal travel to the specific location, subject to all other provisions of this chapter.

D. No travel or meal expense that would not be a reimbursable expense under this chapter may be the object of a direct expenditure of county funds. (Ord. 13257 § 5, 1998: Ord. 9206 § 5, 1989).

3.24.060 Transportation costs. The county will pay the actual and necessary costs of transportation of conducting official county business as follows:

A. Travel shall be by the method of transportation and route that will be most advantageous to the county, considering the cost of transportation, other travel expenses and salary. The excess cost of first class or business class fare for a given mode of travel shall not be reimbursed when less expensive fares are available. When a private mode of transportation is used in lieu of a more customary form of transportation to the event site, travel expenses shall be reimbursed at the lesser of the two costs.

B. When automobile transportation is necessary, a county vehicle or public transportation shall be used whenever practical. When rental vehicles are authorized, government rates must always be requested. When use of a private automobile is authorized, reimbursement for mileage shall be the current Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rate per mile for business-related travel and reimbursement for parking shall be the actual cost, except as provided by a collective bargaining agreement, prevailing law or contract. The department of finance shall be responsible for administering and announcing the current IRS mileage rate for business-related travel.

C. The starting and ending locations of travel are the official work place or the residence, depending on the work schedule and the work status of the traveler at the time of departure and arrival.

D. Transportation between a person's home and regularly assigned workplace is not reimbursable, except that members of regional committees who are not full-time elected officials may be reimbursed actual parking and round-trip mileage expenses, at the current IRS mileage rate for business-related travel, between the member's workplace or residence and the location of the regional committee meeting. (Ord. 13257 § 6, 1998: Ord. 12077 § 8, 1995).

3.24.070 Lodging costs. Lodging costs actually incurred are reimbursable only as follows:

A. Lodging costs will be reimbursed only if a person is in overnight travel status. Government rates must always be requested. Lodging receipts are required. Lodging costs in the host city may be claimed from the night before the authorized event starts through the night before it ends, unless reasonably priced and timely return transportation is not available, thereby necessitating additional lodging costs.

B. The traveler shall be reimbursed for actual lodging costs incurred for single occupancy, to a maximum of the federal lodging limit for the host city plus taxes. If the lodging receipt indicates a charge for double occupancy and two persons are authorized to travel on behalf of the county, each traveler shall be allowed one-half the double occupancy charge. If one person is not authorized to travel on behalf of the county, the person authorized to travel shall be reimbursed at the single occupancy rate to a maximum of the federal lodging limit.

C. For seminars, conferences or conventions, costs for lodging at the event site may be authorized in excess of the federal lodging limit for the host city under the following conditions:

1. No alternate lodging is available within a reasonable distance of the event site which is within the federal lodging limit for the host city. The traveler must provide a signed statement of unavailability with the request for reimbursement; or

2. The authorized means of transportation between the alternate lodging site and the event site would exceed the savings in lodging costs; or

3. The presiding elected official, or his or her designee, has authorized the excess expenditure in writing and in advance for any exigent circumstances which may exist.

D. The department of finance shall distribute federal lodging limits, as published in the Code of Federal Regulations, 41 CFR §301, App. A, as rate changes occur. (Ord. 13257 § 7, 1998: Ord. 9206 § 7. 1989).

3.24.080 Per diem meal and incidental rates and refreshment costs.

A. Day and overnight travel status. For persons traveling on official county business, meal and incidental expenses are reimbursable at the per diem rates established by the federal travel regulations for the host city, published annually in the Code of Federal Regulations, 41 CFR §301, App. A. The per diem rates include fixed allowances for breakfast, lunch, dinner and incidental expenses, by city. The meal allowances include tips and gratuities. The incidental rates are calculated to allow for expenses such as fees and tips to baggage carriers, concierges, hotel staff and laundry. Reimbursement for incidentals is authorized only for overnight travel. Receipts are not required.

1. For day travel, the fixed allowance per meal, as established by the federal per diem rate, may be claimed if in travel status at the following times: 7:00 a.m. - breakfast, 12 noon - lunch, and 6:00 p.m. - dinner.

2. For overnight travel, the per diem meal and incidental rate may be claimed. On the first and last days of travel, meals shall be reimbursed at the rates established for day travel, plus incidentals.

3. When the expense of a meal is included in a registration fee, air fare or other county expense, the per diem meal and incidental rate will be reduced by the fixed allowance for the respective meal.

B. Nontravel status.

1. Meal expenses incurred while the person is not in travel status are not normally reimbursable, except that meals may be reimbursed or paid directly by the county for official county business purposes as follows:

a. for staff retreats lasting more than four hours in a single day, for either single or multiple days, not to exceed one retreat per quarter per county division or key subordinate unit as defined by K.C.C. 2.16.100; or

b. when an integral part of a job-related seminar, conference, convention, or training occurs during the meal, provided such meals are approved in advance, in writing, by the presiding elected official or designee; or

c. when a meeting subject to the Open Public Meetings Act, chapter 43.20 RCW*, continues through the times listed in K.C.C. 3.24.080A.1; or

d. for events authorized in advance and in writing by a presiding elected official or designee, provided that this authorization shall not be provided in circumstances that violate article VIII, section 7 of the state Constitution, which prohibits gifts of public funds.

2. Reimbursable meals incurred while in nontravel status are limited to the fixed meal allowance established by the federal travel regulations for each participant.

C. Refreshments. Expenses for refreshments are not normally reimbursable, except that refreshment expenses may be reimbursed when an employee is not in travel status, under the conditions provided for in K.C.C. 3.24.080B. Additionally, refreshments may be provided to employees by the county, at its option. Refreshment expenses, however, are limited to fifty percent of the fixed lunch meal allowance established by the federal travel regulations for each participant. Any purchase of refreshments that will cost more than fifty dollars in total per function must be approved in advance and in writing by the presiding elected official or designee.

D. Nonreimbursable meal and refreshment costs. Meal and refreshment costs are neither reimbursable nor may they be paid by the county as a direct expenditure when:

1. They are included in another county expense, regardless of whether the person partakes in the meal or refreshment; or

2. They are incurred for recreational or social events such as office parties, going away parties, retirement parties, or other personalized social events; or

3. It would violate the provisions of article VIII, section 7 of the state Constitution, which prohibits a gift of public funds.

*Reviser's note: The reference to "the Open Public Meetings Act, chapter 43.20 RCW" is apparently erroneous. The Open Public Meetings Act of 1971 is chapter 42.30 RCW.

E. Exceptions to the per diem meal rates. Meal expenses may be incurred at a rate higher than that established by federal regulations when one of the following conditions apply:

1. The presiding elected official or designee approves the cost of the meal because a circumstance related to a particular meal results in exceeding the authorized meal rate. A receipt detailing the expense, accompanied by written justification, shall be submitted with the request to exceed the fixed meal allowance; or

2. The meal expense is incurred on behalf of another agency that reimburses the county for the expense, in which case the expense shall be reimbursed according to the rules specified by the funding agency; or

3. When necessitated by special dietary needs.

F. The department of finance shall distribute federal meal and incidental rates, as published in the Code of Federal Regulations, 41 CFR §301, App. A, as rate changes occur. (Ord. 13257 § 8, 1998: Ord. 12077 § 9, 1995).

3.24.090 Miscellaneous reimbursable expenses.

A. Miscellaneous expenses related to official county business travel which are considered essential and reimbursable include, but are not limited to:

1. Registration fee of a seminar, conference, convention or similarly organized program subject to the limitation in K.C.C.3.24.080A.3.

2. Rental of a room in a hotel or other facility that is used to transact official business.

3. Parking; ferry and bridge tolls; taxi, subway and bus fares; airport shuttle service and rental vehicles.

4. Stenographic, typing or computer-related services.

5. Telephone calls or facsimile (fax) transmissions necessary for the conduct of official business or to advise of a change in official travel plans.

6. Traveler's checks.

7. Baggage handling service, when necessitated by physical limitations or when carrying excessive baggage or equipment required for an official business purpose, may be claimed beyond the expense limitations provided for in K.C.C. 3.24.080A.

B. A miscellaneous nontravel expense related to official county business is reimbursable if the expense is under one hundred dollars and approved in advance by the presiding elected official or designee. (Ord. 13257 § 9, 1998: Ord. 9206 § 9, 1989).

3.24.100 Nonreimbursable personal expenses. Miscellaneous travel expenses not directly related to the conduct of official county business are not reimbursable.

A. Certain expenses are considered personal and therefore nonreimbursable including, but not limited to:

1. Laundry, except as covered by the incidental per diem rate provided for in K.C.C. 3.24.080.

2. Personal telephone calls, except as provided for in K.C.C. 3.24.090A.5.

3. Entertainment, clothing, personal sundries and services, transportation to places of entertainment and similar personal items.

4. Room service costs that exceed the fixed rate established for the meal incurred and valet service, except when necessitated by physical limitations.

5. Personal "trip insurance" and medical or hospital services.

6. Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products.

7. Tips and gratuities, except as provided for in K.C.C. 3.24.080A.

8. Fines and penalties.

9. Dependent care, except as provided through the county employee benefits program.

B. The county shall not provide funding of travel expenses when a source of reimbursement other than the county is specified in county, state or federal law or policy. In cases where reimbursement is available from another source, the county may, at the option of the approving authority, pay the difference between what the county policy would allow for the total travel activity and the total reimbursed from the other source for expenses reimbursable under the provisions of this chapter, but shall not selectively reimburse for only specific items with differing reimbursement rates between the county and the other source. (Ord. 13257 § 10, 1998; Ord. 9206 § 10, 1989).

3.24.105 Travel expense advances.

A. Whenever it becomes necessary for an employee to incur reimbursable expenses for overnight travel, the department of finance may make a travel expense advance if requested by the employee. The amount of such an advance shall not exceed the amount of anticipated reimbursable expenses.

B. Travel expense advances shall be used only to defray reimbursable expenses incurred while conducting official county business. Travel expense advances shall not, under any circumstances, be considered a personal loan to the employee and any expenditure thereof, other than for official county business purposes, shall be considered a misappropriation of county funds.

C. On or before the tenth day following the close of the authorized travel period, any employee who received a travel expense advance shall submit a fully itemized travel expense voucher, as provided for in K.C.C. 3.24.130, accompanied by the unexpended portion of such advance, if any, to the approving official. The approving official shall have an additional five calendar days to process and forward the travel voucher and unexpended funds to the department of finance. The department of finance shall withhold from the employee's next paycheck any travel expense advance, or any portion thereof, not properly accounted for or repaid to the department of finance within the fifteen-day period. Such withholdings shall include interest, from the date of default until paid, at the rate established by RCW 42.24.150.

D. County employees who are delinquent in accounting for or repaying a prior travel expense advance shall be ineligible for any additional advances until such time as repayment or acceptable justification for the delinquent advance has been made. (Ord. 13257 § 11, 1998).

3.24.110 Leave of absence during travel.

A. When leave of absence of any kind is taken while in a travel status, the exact hour of departure and return to duty status shall be shown on the travel expense claim voucher. Except as provided in the following paragraph, expense reimbursement, including transportation to and from the post of duty, shall not be granted for such period.

B. Whenever a traveler takes leave of absence because of incapacitation due to illness or injury not due to the employee's own misconduct, the authorized reimbursement for lodging and subsistence may be continued during the leave period, but not to exceed in total the authorized cost for return to the employee's official station or residence, whichever is closer, and then back to the assignment. (Ord. 9206 § 11, 1989).

3.24.120 Lobbyist per diem in lieu of reimbursement.

A. Any expense for which a county employee would otherwise be reimbursed shall be a legal obligation of and expenditure by the county when incurred in the course of "lobbying" as defined in RCW 42.17.020(18), or in the course of providing requested information to an official or officials of another government agency.

B. Any employee of the county, when assigned to a session of the Washington state legislature as a full time "lobbyist" as defined in RCW 42.17.020(19), shall be authorized to receive, in lieu of meals and incidentals and lodging cost reimbursements provided for in this chapter, an allowance for each and every consecutive day of a session at a rate equivalent to that authorized for members of the Washington state legislature in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. (Ord. 13257 § 12, 1998; Ord. 9206 § 12, 1989).

3.24.130 Expense reimbursement.

A. Travel expenses. The traveler shall submit a fully itemized travel expense voucher to obtain reimbursement for travel expenses reimbursable under the provisions of this chapter. Travel expense reimbursement claims shall include the time, place, business purpose and participants in accordance with procedures established by the presiding elected official and on forms approved by the department of finance. Any applicable conference, convention or seminar brochure; airline itinerary; travel authorization(s) and justifications for exceeding the established limits for travel expenses shall be attached to the travel expense reimbursement claim.

1. For travel to a foreign country, the travel reimbursement claim shall show the total cost in the foreign currency, converted to U.S. dollars. The exchange rate shall be determined using either the rate published in the Wall Street Journal on the date representing the mid-point of travel, or the receipt provided by the bank or hotel making the exchange transaction, provided it shows the exchange rate, date and transaction fee.

2. For travel to Canada, the department of finance shall ensure that the necessary forms and records are submitted to the appropriate Canadian government to request the goods and services tax refund. Requests for refunds shall be made upon completion of travel claim and voucher review.

B. Nontravel expenses. The employee shall submit a fully itemized expense voucher to obtain reimbursement for reimbursable nontravel expenses.

C. Receipts prepared and issued by the service provider or copies of endorsed checks are required wherever this chapter provides for actual cost reimbursement, except that receipts are not required for expenses of less than ten dollars.

D. Persons responsible for approving expense reimbursement claims shall be the respective presiding elected official or designee but shall not be subordinate to the claimant.

E. The approving official of expense reimbursement claims shall ensure that one political subdivision does not pay expenses properly attributed to another, in violation of RCW 43.09.210. (Ord. 13257 § 13, 1998; Ord. 12077 § 10, 1995).

3.24.140 Repayment of unauthorized reimbursements. The department of finance shall seek repayment of expenses from the person who was reimbursed whenever an audit or subsequent review of travel expense reimbursements finds that such expenses were reimbursed contrary to the provisions of this chapter. (Ord. 13257 § 14, 1998).

3.24.150 Implementation.

A. Each presiding elected official shall be responsible for preparing and adopting administrative policies and procedures for submittal, approval and reimbursement of expense claims. Such policies and procedures shall include examples of the types of expenses allowed and disallowed, consistent with the provisions of this chapter. Should a presiding elected official not adopt the necessary policies and procedures within thirty days of the effective date of this chapter (December 10, 1998), the policies and procedure adopted by the executive shall apply until the presiding elected official adopts the necessary policies and procedures.

B. The department of finance shall be responsible for developing and disseminating the forms required to authorize and reimburse expenses. (Ord. 13257 § 15, 1998).

3.24.160 Reporting. The department of finance shall annually provide to the council a report, by department, agency or office, listing reimbursements made under the provisions of this chapter. At a minimum, the report shall include:

- A. Reimbursement for lodging expenses that exceed the federal lodging limits provided for in K.C.C. 3.24.070 and the reasons therefore; and
- B. Reimbursement expenditures made to candidates for employment interview expenses under K.C.C. 3.24.020; and
- C. Refreshment expense reimbursements provided for county functions under K.C.C. 3.24.080. (Ord. 13257 § 16, 1998).

3.24.170 Reimbursement of moving expenses for certain employees.

A. Within the executive branch, including the department of judicial administration, the manager of the human resources management division may authorize in writing at the written request of the appointing authority reimbursement for reasonable and necessary moving expenses to the following categories of county employees:

- 1. Persons whose appointments require council confirmation and who have been so confirmed.
- 2. Persons appointed by the county administrative officer to exempt positions.
- 3. Persons appointed by the directors of executive departments to exempt positions.

B. Within the legislative branch, the department of assessments, the department of public safety, the office of the prosecuting attorney, and district and superior courts, the presiding elected official may authorize, in writing, the reasonable and necessary moving expenses of employees appointed within their agencies.

C. The forecast council may authorize, in writing, reimbursement for the reasonable and necessary moving expenses of the chief economist.

D. Reimbursement shall be authorized provided that prior to the appointment the appointing authority agreed to the reimbursement of moving expenses as necessary to obtain the services of a particular individual.

E. Confidential secretaries, and other exempt clerical positions, shall be excluded from the provisions of this section.

F. Total reimbursement shall not exceed six thousand dollars and reimbursement for specific expenses shall be subject to the limitations provided for throughout this chapter. Reimbursement will be authorized within the budgetary constraints of the employing department, agency or office.

G. Authorized moving expenses shall be reimbursable from departure until such time as possessions arrive in the county, unless such expenses have been otherwise reimbursed. Costs incurred in travel other than those related to direct travel to the place of new residence will be considered nonreimbursable. (Ord. 16391 § 21, 2009: Ord. 14199 § 31, 2001: Ord. 13257 § 18, 1998: Ord. 12014 § 56, 1995).

Chapter 3.28
COMPENSATION FOR USE OF PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLES

Sections:

- 3.28.010 Generally.
- 3.28.020 Amount.

3.28.010 Generally. The executive, legislative and judicial branches of county government may, at their individual option, establish a system of reimbursement on a monthly allotment basis for use of privately owned vehicles used in connection with county business in lieu of permanently assigned county vehicles. (Ord. 1902 § 1, 1974).

3.28.020 Amount. The compensation provided for in Section 3.28.010 shall not exceed the average monthly charge billed by the department of transportation for equivalent vehicles. (Ord. 12077 § 11, 1995).

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Chapter 3.30
USE OF COUNTY VEHICLES TO COMMUTE

Sections:

- 3.30.010 Purpose.
- 3.30.020 Definitions.
- 3.30.030 Take-home vehicle assignment policies and criteria.
- 3.30.040 Authority to approve take-home vehicle assignments.
- 3.30.050 Record-keeping.
- 3.30.060 Semiannual monitoring and re-authorization of take-home vehicle assignments.
- 3.30.070 Exemption.

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3.30.010 Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to ensure the proper use of public funds with regard to the county's practice of allowing employees to commute to and from work in county owned vehicles. The intent of this chapter is to:

- A. Restrict the number of county owned vehicles being used by employees to commute to and from work;
- B. Establish criteria and policies for evaluating and authorizing take-home vehicle assignments;
- C. Require the fleet administration division of the department of transportation to document the number of current take-home vehicle assignments;
- D. Require the fleet administration division of the department of transportation to develop administrative rules for implementing the provisions of this chapter; and
- E. Require the fleet administration division of the department of transportation to re-evaluate all take-home vehicle assignments in accordance with the policies and criteria established herein. (Ord. 12077 § 12, 1995).

3.30.020 Definitions. For purposes of this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth below:

- A. "Assigned take-home vehicle" means a county vehicle which is used by a county employee for county business and for regularly commuting to and from the employee's home and work station.
- B. "Assigned vehicle" means a county vehicle assigned to a department or county employee for county business, but not for employee commuting to and from the employee's home and work station.
- C. "Emergency Response" means an employee response to an emergency situation requiring immediate attention for the protection of life or property.
- D. "Motor pool dispatch vehicle" means a vehicle issued from a central motor pool for a single trip or for less than three working days.
- E. "Occasional overnight usage of county-owned vehicles" means county employees taking home county-owned vehicles after attending night meetings or other county business activities that occur outside an employee's normally scheduled work hours. Occasional overnight usage of a county-owned vehicle shall mean no more than twelve times per quarter on average.
- F. "Work station" means the office or site a county employee reports to perform normally scheduled work. (Ord. 11183 § 1, 1993).

3.30.030 Take-home vehicle assignment policies and criteria. The Council wishes to restrict the number of take-home vehicles provided to county employees. To accomplish this objective, the following policies and criteria shall be used as the basis for authorizing take-home vehicle assignments:

- A.1. For county business before or after normal working hours, providing motor pool dispatch vehicles or travel reimbursement is preferred over the assignment of take-home vehicles.
- 2. The assignment of a take-home vehicle is neither a privilege, nor a right of any county employee.
- 3. Take-home vehicle assignments shall not be made based on employee merit or employee status.
- 4. Wherever possible, county vehicles shall be picked up and dropped off at designated county parking areas, thereby avoiding the assignment of take-home vehicles.
- B. Take-home vehicle assignment criteria:
 - 1.a. Take-home vehicles may be assigned to county employees who:
 - (1) have primary responsibility to respond to emergency situations that require immediate response to protect life or property;
 - (2) respond to emergencies at least twelve times per quarter;
 - (3) cannot use alternative forms of transportation to respond to emergencies; and

(4) cannot pick up county-owned assigned vehicles at designated sites.

Emergency response assignments shall be supported by data demonstrating the actual number and nature of emergency responses in the prior year, and estimates of future emergency responses. In addition, there must be an explanation why an employee cannot use alternative forms of transportation to respond to the emergencies or pick up county owned assigned vehicles at designated parking areas.

b. Take-home vehicles may be assigned if employee travel reimbursement costs are greater than the commuting costs associated with overnight vehicle usage. Lost productivity costs, the cost of the time it takes an employee to travel from a designated county parking facility to the employee's work station, shall not be included in the calculation of economic benefit to the county. In addition, there must be an explanation why an employee cannot use alternative forms of transportation or pick up county owned vehicles at designated parking areas.

3. Take-home vehicles may be assigned if an employee needs specialized equipment or a special vehicle to perform county work outside an employee's normally scheduled work day. Employees taking a county vehicle home must have primary responsibility to respond to emergencies. Special equipment vehicle assignments shall be supported by information describing the special equipment needed to perform the county work. The need for communication access, such as car radio, telephone and similar devices, shall not be considered adequate justification for a take-home vehicle assignment.

4. Special clean transportation technology demonstration vehicles may be assigned to county employees for a limited duration in order to promote and demonstrate the viability of low-emission, energy-efficient technologies and fossil fuel alternatives. To encourage the maximum public visibility of clean technology demonstration vehicles, employees authorized to use the vehicles may also use them both before or after normal working hours, and may use them as a take home vehicle to encourage such visibility as an official public use. Incidental personal benefit or convenience from such a public use does not constitute personal use. (Ord. 15988 § 2, 2007: Ord. 11183 § 2, 3, 1993: Ord. 10930 § 3-4, 1993).

3.30.040 Authority to approve take-home vehicle assignments. The fleet administration division of the department of transportation shall be the executive agency in charge of implementing the provisions of this chapter. The division shall:

- A. Develop the administrative rules to implement the provisions of this chapter.
- B. Evaluate all take-home vehicle assignment requests from executive departments and administrative offices; and
- C. Approve and monitor take-home vehicle assignments requested by executive departments and administrative offices. (Ord. 14199 § 32, 2001: Ord. 12077 § 13, 1995).

3.30.050 Record-keeping. The fleet administration division of the department of transportation shall develop and maintain central records of all county take-home vehicle assignments. The records shall be maintained in one location and shall be readily available to the council and the public upon request. At a minimum, the record-keeping should contain:

- A. Vehicle assignment by department, division, position title, and employee name;
- B. Mileage including a breakdown of commuting mileage and work related mileage based on a trip log;
- C. Number and nature of emergency related calls, if the take-home vehicle is assigned based on an emergency response justification; and
- D. A calculation of savings if take-home vehicle assignment is based on an economic justification. (Ord. 12077 § 14, 1995).

3.30.060 Semiannual monitoring and re-authorization of take-home vehicle assignments. Beginning in 1994, the fleet administration division of the department of transportation shall, on a semi-annual basis, re-evaluate and update all executive department take-home vehicle assignments. By June 30 and December 31 of each year, the fleet administration division shall make available to the council and the public an updated list of take-home vehicle assignments. The updated list shall identify each take-home vehicle assignment by department, division, and position title. In addition, there should be written documentation for each take-home vehicle assignment which describes how each assignment meets the policies and criteria set forth in this chapter. (Ord. 12077 § 15, 1995).

3.30.070 Exemptions.

A. Commissioned Police Officers. All vehicles assigned to commissioned police officers including commissioned roads use investigators, and arson investigators shall be exempt from the provisions of this chapter.

B. Occasional Overnight Usage. Occasional overnight usage of county-owned vehicles is permitted. Occasional overnight usage may involve:

1. Taking a county vehicle home before or after attending a meeting away from the employee's normal place of work; and

2. Taking a county vehicle home when an employee has primary responsibility to respond to emergencies caused by inclement weather, such as, flooding or heavy snow storms.

C. Collective Bargaining Agreement. All represented employees whose collective bargaining agreement specifically provides for take-home vehicle assignments are exempt from the provisions of this chapter. (Ord. 11183 § 8, 1993; Ord. 10930 § 11, 1993).

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Chapter 3.32
COUNTY AUTOMOTIVE PARKING FACILITIES

Sections:

- 3.32.006 Definitions.
- 3.32.010 Administrative regulations.
- 3.32.020 Parking fees - general - method of payment - market survey.
- 3.32.030 No exemptions - agencies pay for business convenience.
- 3.32.040 Public parking spaces.
- 3.32.045 Goat Hill parking garage - parking rates.
- 3.32.050 Reserved spaces for disabled.
- 3.32.055 Parking rates - monthly.
- 3.32.057 Goat Hill parking garage - assignment of certain stalls - rates.
- 3.32.060 Penalties.
- 3.32.090 Parking fee revenues - disposition.

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3.32.006 Definitions. The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

A. "After hours parking" means work time parking for employees whose normal work shifts begin after 1:30 p.m. and end between 9:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. or who are required to come into work after 4:30 p.m. "After hours parking" also includes parking on weekends and holidays that is required by the employee's agency.

B. "Business convenience" means a county business-related requirement. For the purposes of this chapter, "a county business-related requirement" includes after hours parking for county employees, parking for commissioned sheriff's office personnel, parking for county volunteers specifically authorized by ordinance to park in county automotive parking facilities at no charge, parking for county employees working for a specified and limited period on a time-sensitive project that requires them to arrive before or stay after regular work hours and parking for county employees who are required as part of their jobs to use their private vehicles to routinely travel to multiple county business locations and parking for county-owned vehicles.

C. "County automotive parking facility" means:

1. The Goat Hill parking garage located at Sixth Avenue and Jefferson in Seattle;
2. The parking structure located at the regional justice center in Kent;
3. County adult detention center parking facilities located at Fifth Avenue and James in Seattle;
4. Open surface lots that are owned or leased by the county; and
5. The Chinook Building parking located at Fifth Avenue and Jefferson in Seattle.

D. "County volunteer" means a person who is not a county employee, who performs service for the county for civic, charitable or humanitarian reasons, without promise, expectation or receipt of compensation from the county for services rendered and who is accepted as a volunteer by the county. "County volunteer" includes, but is not limited to, a person serving as a board member, officer, commission member, volunteer intern or direct service volunteer.

E. "Director" means the director of the county department of executive services and his or her successor or designee, unless otherwise specified in this chapter.

F. "Public parking" means general purpose parking by persons who are not county employees and by county employees that park for less than a full day. (Ord. 16981 § 2, 2010: Ord. 16677 § 1, 2009: Ord. 15648 § 2, 2006).

3.32.010 Administrative regulations. Administrative regulations adopted by the department of executive services shall include, but not be limited to, the following subjects:

- A. Identification of positions eligible for reserved and unreserved parking;
- B. Regulation of after-hours and weekend parking;
- C. Enforcement procedures, including certification and monitoring of carpools and the establishment of procedures for handling complaints;
- D. Designation of the public parking areas;
- E. Prohibition of the resale of the parking stall assignment;
- F. Designation of reserved and unreserved parking areas;
- G. Establishment of public parking rates at the county automotive parking facilities. The public parking rates shall be based upon the advice and market rate information regularly collected and analyzed by the private contractor hired to manage and operate the lot or by the director in those cases where the lot is not managed by a private contractor. The director may authorize the contractor to make periodic rate adjustments within a specified range, but shall periodically review the contractor's rate adjustments, rate setting methods and research to ensure that they are based on current data; and
- H. Designation of open surface lots that are subject to parking charges. (Ord. 15950 § 1, 2007: Ord. 15648 § 3, 2006: Ord. 14713 § 1, 2003: Ord. 14262 § 3, 2001: Ord. 12077 § 16, 1995).

3.32.020 Parking fees - general - method of payment - market survey.

A. All county employees, elected officials and county volunteers shall pay their own parking fees unless they are parking for the business convenience of the county. The agency served by an employee, elected official or county volunteer, who is parking for the business convenience of the county, shall be charged for such parking at a rate equal to the county employee rate. Current county employees covered by existing collective bargaining agreements shall be affected only in a manner consistent with state law.

B. The parking fees for monthly parking that is not for the business convenience of the county shall be paid through monthly payroll deductions from the wages of the employee or elected official who is assigned the regular use of the county parking stall regardless of whether that person is assigned the use of a county-owned vehicle, assigned a vehicle provided at county expense, or uses a privately-owned vehicle.

C. In order to evaluate the appropriateness of any potential adjustments to established employee parking rates, the department of executive services, facilities management division may conduct a survey of the monthly parking rates charged for public parking in comparable lots. The survey and any employee parking fee recommendations shall be forwarded to the council for consideration during the budget process. (Ord. 16981 § 2, 2010: Ord. 15648 § 4, 2006: Ord. 14713 § 2, 2003: Ord. 14262 § 4, 2001: Ord. 12077 § 17, 1995).

3.32.030 No exemptions - agencies pay for business convenience. There shall not be exemptions from parking fees. County agencies benefiting from parking required for the business convenience of the county shall pay for that parking. (Ord. 15648 § 5, 2006: Ord. 8753 § 2, 1988: Ord. 3511 § 4, 1977).

3.32.040 Public parking space. Public parking space within county automotive parking facilities shall be made available to the extent practicable. Members of the public on county business shall be charged for all time parked. Religious service volunteers who work at the King County jail are parking for the business convenience of the department of adult and juvenile detention. (Ord. 16981 § 3, 2010: Ord. 10290 § 1, 1992: Ord. 10175 § 3, 1991: Ord. 8753 § 3, 1988: Ord. 7863 § 2, 1986: Ord. 3511 § 5, 1977).

3.32.045 Goat Hill parking garage - parking rates.. The rates for county employees parking at the Goat Hill parking garage shall be as follows:

A. Daily parking for motorcycles: five dollars;

B. Hourly parking: Hourly public parking rates shall apply up to a maximum of fifteen dollars per day for automobiles; and

C. The rate for after-hours parking shall be seven dollars per day. (Ord. 16981 § 4, 2010: Ord. 16367 § 1, 2009: Ord. 15950 § 3, 2007: Ord. 15648 § 7, 2006: Ord. 14713 § 3, 2003: Ord. 14262 § 5, 2001: Ord. 13337 § 2, 1998: Ord. 11133 § 2, 1993: Ord. 10175 § 4, 1991: Ord. 9413 § 3, 1990: Ord. 8816 § 2, 1989: Ord. 8753 § 6, 1988).

3.32.050 Parking assignments.

A. Spaces shall be reserved for the disabled and located convenient to elevators. (Ord. 15648 § 8, 2006: Ord. 3511 § 6, 1977).

3.32.055 Parking rates - monthly.

A. Monthly employee and county vehicle rates for parking in the Goat Hill parking garage, the Chinook Building, the King County Correctional Facility and open surface parking lots that are designated by rule to be subject to parking charges, shall be as follows:

	Reserved/ Designated Area	Unreserved Area
1. Vehicle parking	\$300	\$260.00
2. Electric Cars		\$182.00
3. Open surface lots	\$20.00	\$20.00
4. City of Seattle certified carpool		\$182.00
5. Employee ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)		\$130.00.

B. The facilities management division of the department of executive services shall identify surface parking lots where it is reasonable and feasible to charge employees for monthly parking. These surface parking lots are located at county facilities outside the downtown Seattle metropolitan core and include, but are not limited to, district courts, health centers, alcohol treatment facilities, police precincts, youth service centers and similar facilities. Designation of open surface lots that are subject to parking charges shall occur by administrative rule adopted pursuant to K.C.C. 3.32.010.

C. For county employees with disabilities that make it difficult or impossible to use public transit, and who display a disabled parking permit, the fee for covered parking in facilities managed by the facilities management division shall be fifty percent of the monthly employee rate, rounding up to the next even dollar. Employees with disabilities shall receive first priority in the assignment of available parking stalls. (Ord. 16981 § 5, 2010: Ord. 16696 § 2, 2009: Ord. 16367 § 2, 2008: 15950 § 5, 2007: Ord. 15648 § 9, 2006: Ord. 14713 § 4, 2003: Ord. 14262 § 6, 2001: Ord. 13337 § 4, 1998: Ord. 12077 § 18, 1995).

3.32.057 Goat Hill parking garage - assignment of certain stalls - rates.

A. A minimum of five parking spaces within the Goat Hill parking garage shall have a preferential carpool rate for city of Seattle certified car pools. The preferential rate shall be seventy percent of the otherwise-applicable monthly parking rate for monthly public parking or monthly employee parking as applicable.

B. A minimum of two parking stalls within the Goat Hill parking garage shall be assigned for certified vanpool vehicles with a one-hundred-percent subsidy.

C. A minimum of five preferential parking stalls within the Goat Hill parking garage shall be assigned for hybrid vehicles that are employee owned or leased. The preferential stalls shall not be used for county-owned vehicles. The stalls shall be located on level one of the garage and shall be the stalls closest to the elevator with the exception of disabled parking stalls. (Ord. 15950 § 7, 2007).

3.32.060 Penalties. The director of the department of executive services is authorized to issue overtime parking citations and to impound vehicles found to be in violation of any of the provisions of this chapter or the regulations promulgated under this chapter. The director may rescind the parking privilege of persons found to be in violation of this chapter or the regulations promulgated under this chapter. (Ord. 14262 § 7, 2001: Ord. 12077 § 19, 1995).

3.32.090 Parking fee revenues - disposition. All revenues derived from parking fees shall be distributed as follows:

- A. Applicable local and state taxes;
- B. An allocation to cover rent payments for the Goat Hill parking garage and pro-rated rent for the parking portion of the Chinook Building;
- C. It is the intent of the council to annually, during the budget process, identify a portion of the revenue going to the current expense fund to be transferred to the major maintenance reserve fund to support major maintenance projects at the garage and other parking facilities, taking into account the major maintenance model and financial plan;
- D. An allocation to the facilities management division of the department of executive services's internal service fund to reimburse the fund for expenses associated with the operation of the parking program;
- E. An allocation to the children and family set-aside fund for support of health and human services activities sufficient to increase the allocation from 2004 levels at the local consumer price index; and
- F. The residual revenues distributed to the current expense fund. (Ord. 15950 § 6, 2007: Ord. 15648 § 10, 2006: Ord. 14639 § 1, 2003: Ord. 14262 § 8, 2001: Ord. 10290 § 3, 1992: Ord. 10175 § 6, 1991: Ord. 8753 § 7, 1988).

Chapter 3.36
CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM COUNTY EMPLOYEES

Sections:

- 3.36.010 Intent and purpose.
- 3.36.020 Definitions.
- 3.36.030 Employee giving program committee.
- 3.36.040 Annual campaign.
- 3.36.045 Campaign participants - requirements - notice in campaign materials.
- 3.36.055 Solicitations of donations - limits on use of county property or equipment - promotional costs - voluntary employee participation.
- 3.36.065 Deductions from salary warrants for donations - one-time donations.
- 3.36.075 Disbursements for contributions.

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3.36.010 Intent and purpose.

A. This chapter is intended to establish a means consistent with state law governing salary and wage deductions for charitable agencies, whereby uniform procedures are established for the efficient administration of one annual campaign for charitable contributions from county employees, which may be made through payroll deductions. This chapter shall be liberally construed to accomplish this purpose.

B. The purpose of this chapter is to:

1. Lessen the burden of county government and of local communities in the meeting of charitable needs;
2. Provide a convenient channel through which county employees may contribute to the efforts of qualifying agencies providing services in the county, state, nation or overseas;
3. Minimize both the disruption to the county workplace and the costs to the taxpayer that multiple charitable fund drives have caused; and
4. Ensure that recipient agencies are fiscally responsible in the uses of the moneys raised. (Ord. 16035 § 1, 2008: Ord. 8575 § 1, 1988).

3.36.020 Definitions. The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

A. "Campaign" means the annual solicitation of contributions from county employees by representatives of federations and charitable organizations through oral presentations, printed materials, audio/video media or other similar means that occurs on county property during normal county business hours.

B. "Charitable organization" means an organization that:

1. Has been in active existence at least the previous three years;
2. Is formally recognized by the United States Internal Revenue Service as complying with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or is a governmental unit of the state of Washington, and for which all contributions to the organization are eligible to be deductible for federal income tax purposes under Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Service Code of 1986 as demonstrated by receipt of an internal revenue service letter of determination granting tax deductible status to the charitable organization.

C. "Federation" means a group, representing at least five charitable organizations, that is organized to solicit and distribute contributions on behalf of its member charitable organizations.

D. "Participating organization" means a federation or charitable organization that is participating in the campaign. (Ord. 16035 § 2, 2008: Ord. 9091, 1989: Ord. 8575 § 2, 1988).

3.36.030 Employee giving program committee.

A. A county employee giving program committee is established consisting of fifteen members nominated by the committee, appointed by the executive and confirmed by the council. Members of the committee should be assembled from all of the bargaining units and from unrepresented employees. The members from each bargaining unit should be approximately proportional to the number of employees represented by the bargaining unit. The committee shall strive to include members representing the diversity of the county work force including at least two union members. The term of committee members shall be two years. To ensure continuity of the membership for each year's campaign, terms shall begin on January 1 and expire March 1 two years later. The committee shall annually elect a chair and such other officers as are needed.

B.1. The committee shall adopt such rules and bylaws consistent with this chapter as are necessary to the conduct of the campaign. The committee shall also coordinate the campaign. The coordination may include, but need not be limited to, determining which federations and charitable organizations may, consistent with this chapter and any rules adopted in accordance with this chapter, participate in the campaign and the dates by which applications must be filed for the campaign. If the committee determines that a federation or charitable organization is not eligible, the federation or charitable organization may appeal the decision to the committee.

2. The committee shall revoke a determination of eligibility if one or more of the following occurs:
 - a. fraud;
 - b. failure of an applicant to inform the committee of any fact that would affect the committee's determination about the applicant's eligibility; or
 - c. a participant is ineligible under this chapter.

C. The committee shall assist the executive or designee in the selection of a campaign administrator who shall be responsible for the details of the campaign operation under the general oversight of the committee. Cost of the campaign administrator shall be included as part of the administrative cost of conducting the campaign.

D. Members of the committee shall serve voluntarily without additional salary but shall be reimbursed by their employing departments for travel, lodging and meals in accordance with county laws and regulations. Committee members shall be given release time from regular work hours to serve on the committee. Members of the committee shall be paid no additional compensation for working beyond normal working hours. Employees covered by the overtime requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act who are serving as committee members should ensure that their working hours, including hours worked for the committee, do not exceed approved hours.

E. A member of the committee shall not vote on a federation or charitable organization's eligibility if the member has a board membership, directorship or other decision-making capacity in the federation or charitable organization. (Ord. 16035 § 3, 2008: Ord. 11997, 1995: Ord. 10923 § 1, 1993: Ord. 9465 § 1, 1990: Ord. 8575 § 3, 1988).

3.36.040 Annual campaign. There shall be one annual campaign for federations and charitable organizations as provided by this chapter and in accordance with rules adopted under this chapter. The committee shall designate the time in which the campaign will be held. (Ord. 16035 § 4, 2008: Ord. 8575 § 4, 1988).

3.36.045 Campaign participants - requirements - notice in campaign materials.

A. A federation or charitable organizations may participate in the campaign if the federation or charitable organization submits a timely application for participation to the committee to include, at a minimum, a certification signed by an authorized officer or employee of the federation or charitable organization, which shall contain statements to the effect that:

1. The federation and each organization represented by the federation, or the charitable organization, meets the standards established respectively in K.C.C. 3.36.020 B. and C;

2. For a federation, the federation has express permission of the board of directors of each charitable organization represented by the federation for the use of the organization's name and participation in the campaign;

3. The federation and each organization represented by the federation, or the charitable organization, is registered with the Washington state Secretary of State as provided by RCW 19.09.065 and is in compliance with Washington state laws governing charities to the best of the knowledge of the individual certifying the application; and

4. The federation and each organization represented by the federation, or the charitable organization, except government units, are governed by a voluntary board of directors that serves without compensation for serving on the board;

5.a. The participating organization does not discriminate for or against any individual or group on account of race, color, creed, religion, sex, age, nationality, marital status, sexual orientation, or the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability in all aspects of the management and the execution of the charitable campaign. An affirmation of a participating organization's adherence to this nondiscrimination policy, or a statement of a legal exemption from the policy, must be included in the organization's application. A federation must affirm in the federation's application the adherence to this policy, or a legal exception from the policy, of each charitable organization the federation represents in the application.

b. Nothing in this subsection A.5. denies eligibility to a federation or charitable organization that is otherwise eligible to participate in the campaign merely because the federation or charitable organization is organized by, on behalf of or to serve persons of a particular race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap or to a federation or organization exempt from this requirement by federal law. If a federation or charitable organization claims an exemption under this subsection B.2, a statement to that effect must be included with the federation or charitable organization's application and that stated exemption may be noted in campaign materials; and

6. The participating organization expends the moneys received from King County employees through the campaign within twelve months of receipt of the moneys. If a participating organization exceeds the twenty-five percent fundraising and administrative and overhead costs, the organization shall be given one year to comply and thereafter may be excluded from the campaign until documentation is provided that shows a minimum of seventy-five percent of the moneys received have been used for the charitable purposes for which it was solicited. Where questions arise, the committee shall use the most recent Internal Revenue Service Form 990 of the federation or charitable organization for clarification. A federation and each organization represented by the federation, or the charitable organization, shall make available to the employee committee, the council and the county executive copies of its annual report including its most recent financial statement, as well as a disclosure for that period of the total dollar value of support from all sources received on behalf of the charitable purposes of the organization and the total amount of money applied to charitable purposes, fundraising costs and other expenses, upon request.

B. Participating organizations' responses provided under subsection A. of this section may be noted in campaign materials. (Ord. 16035 § 5, 2008).

3.36.055 Solicitations of donations - limits on use of county property or equipment - promotional costs - voluntary employee participation.

A. Organizations participating in campaigns may solicit donations from county employees to be made by payroll deductions, in a manner approved by the committee in accordance with this chapter.

B. As provided in RCW 41.06.250(1) and 42.17.130, county property or equipment or county employees' working time may not be used during a campaign for partisan political purposes, to assist in an individual's election to political office or for the promotion of or opposition to any ballot proposition.

C. All promotional costs associated with the campaign related to county employees shall be the responsibility of those organizations designated to participate in the distribution of the funds collected.

D. County employees' participation in charitable campaigns shall be strictly voluntary. No county employee shall be coerced to participate in any campaign presentation or coerced to make any donation to a charitable organization. No county employee shall be penalized for failing to participate in a campaign or for not making a donation to a charitable organization. Department directors may authorize time for department employees to attend presentations undertaken as part of the campaign in accordance with county policy. (Ord. 16035 § 6, 2008).

3.36.065 Deductions from salary warrants for donations - one-time donations.

A. The county shall make deductions from county employees' salary warrants and pay the moneys collected to the organizations designated by county employees when the deductions and payments are authorized by county employees in accordance with this chapter.

B. An employee may also make a one-time contribution in the calendar year in which the campaign is conducted, by one or more of the following methods:

1. Payroll deduction;
2. Submitting a check made out to a participating organization or the campaign as a whole; and
3. Making a donation in accordance with K.C.C. 3.12.222.A. (Ord. 16035 § 7, 2008)

3.36.075 Disbursements of contributions.

A.1. Quarterly, after campaign costs have been paid, all payroll deductions must be fully disbursed to participating organizations in the proportion calculated on overall contributions for the campaign year, excluding one-time contributions. Federations shall make distributions to their member charitable organizations as designated by contributors.

2. Donations made under K.C.C. 3.36.065.B. must be fully disbursed to participating organization by the end of the calendar year in which the campaign is conducted.

B. Any undesignated contributions shall be distributed proportionately to the participating organizations. (Ord. 16035 § 8, 2008).

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Chapter 3.39
SEATTLE METROPOLITAN POLICE MUSEUM CONTRIBUTIONS
FROM COUNTY EMPLOYEES

Sections:

- 3.39.010 Purpose.
- 3.39.020 Deductions -- participation.

3.39.010 Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to provide a convenient channel through which county employees may contribute membership fees to the Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum. (Ord. 13909 § 1, 2000).

3.39.020 Deductions -- participation. The county shall make deductions from a county employee's salary warrants and pay the moneys collected to the Seattle Metropolitan Police Museum if the employee authorizes the deductions and payments. A county employee's participation in the program is strictly voluntary. The coercion of an employee to participate or to make a donation to the program, and the penalization of an employee for failing to participate in the program, are prohibited. (Ord. 13909 § 2, 2000).

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Chapter 3.42
WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION

Sections:

- 3.42.010 Policy - purpose.
- 3.42.020 Definitions.
- 3.42.030 Right to report - procedures.
- 3.42.040 Confidentiality.
- 3.42.050 Investigations.
- 3.42.055 Investigations by investigating official - powers - procedures - prosecutor powers.
- 3.42.057 Investigations by ombudsman - powers - procedures - fines.
- 3.42.060 Reporting and adjudicating retaliation - ombudsman, prosecutor powers and procedures.
- 3.42.070 Annual reports.

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3.42.010 Policy - purpose. Unless prohibited by state law, county employees are encouraged to report on improper governmental action to the appropriate county or other government official. To assist such reporting and to implement chapter 42.41 RCW, this chapter provides county employees a process for reporting improper governmental action and protection from retaliatory action for reporting and cooperating in the investigation and/or prosecution of improper governmental action in good faith in accordance with this chapter. (Ord. 16580 § 1, 2009; Ord. 11687 § 3, 1995).

3.42.020 Definitions. The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

A. "Appropriate investigating official" an investigating official acting within his or her respective jurisdiction as identified in K.C.C. 3.42.030.D. or any assistant or representative authorized to receive documents on his or her behalf, except that for the department of public safety, the only appropriate investigating official shall be the internal investigations unit or any assistant or representative authorized to receive documents on its behalf.

B. "Employee" or "county employee" means any individual who is appointed as an employee by the appointing authority of a county agency, office, department, council, board, commission or other separate unit or division of county government, however designated. The term "employee" or "county employee" also includes county elected officials and members of county boards, commissions, committees, or other multi-member bodies.

C. "Good faith" means the individual providing the information or report of improper governmental action has a reasonable basis in fact for reporting or providing the information. An individual who knowingly provides or reports, or who reasonably ought to know he or she is providing or reporting, malicious, false, or frivolous information, or information that is provided with reckless disregard for the truth, is not acting in good faith.

D. "Gross mismanagement" means the exercise of management responsibilities in a manner grossly deviating from the standard of care or competence that a reasonable person would observe in the same situation.

E. "Gross waste of public funds" means to spend or use public funds or to allow public funds to be used without valuable result in a manner grossly deviating from the standard of care or competence that a reasonable person would observe in the same situation.

F.1. "Improper governmental action" means any action by a county officer or employee that is undertaken in the performance of the officer's or employee's official duties, whether or not the action is within the scope of employment, and:

- a. violates any state or federal law or rule or county ordinance or rule;
- b. constitutes an abuse of authority;
- c. is gross mismanagement;
- d. creates a substantial and specific danger to the public health or safety;
- e. results in a gross waste of public funds; or

f. prevents the dissemination of scientific opinion or alters technical findings without scientifically valid justification, unless disclosure is legally prohibited. This subsection G.1.f. is not meant to preclude the discretion of agency management to adopt a particular scientific opinion or technical finding from among differing opinions or technical findings to the exclusion of other scientific opinions or technical findings.

2. "Improper governmental action" does not include violations of anti-discrimination laws, violations of collective bargaining or civil service laws, or alleged violations of agreements with labor organizations under collective bargaining. A properly authorized county program or activity does not become an "improper governmental action" because an employee or investigating official dissents from the county policy or considers the expenditures unwise.

G. "Investigating official" means any individual to whom a report may be made pursuant to K.C.C. 3.42.030.D. or any assistant or representative authorized to receive documents on his or her behalf.

H. "Retaliate," "retaliation" and "retaliatory action," means to make any unwarranted adverse change in an employee's employment status or the terms and conditions of employment including, but not limited to:

1. Denial of adequate staff to perform duties;
2. Frequent staff changes;
3. Frequent and undesirable office changes;
4. Refusal to assign meaningful work;
5. Unwarranted and unsubstantiated letters of reprimand or unsatisfactory performance evaluations;
6. Demotion;
7. Reduction in pay;
8. Denial of promotion;
9. Denial of training or benefits;
10. Transfer or reassignment;
11. Suspension or dismissal;
12. Other unwarranted disciplinary action;
13. A supervisor or senior manager or official behaving in or encouraging coworkers to behave in a hostile manner toward the employee, or failing to take appropriate action to prevent coworkers from behaving in a hostile manner toward the employee.

I. "Substantial and specific danger" means a risk of serious injury, illness, peril or loss, to which the exposure of the public is a gross deviation from the standard of care or competence which a reasonable person would observe in the same situation.

J. "Written report of improper governmental action" means any writing that alleges that an improper governmental action has occurred and describes the basis for that belief. (Ord. 16580 § 2, 2009; Ord. 11687 § 2, 1995).

3.42.030 Right to report - procedures.

A. Every county employee shall have the right to report, in good faith in accordance with this ordinance, information concerning an improper governmental action.

B. In reporting improper governmental action, the employee is encouraged, but not required, to make a written report first to any investigating official as defined by K.C.C. 3.42.020.G; the employee is encouraged to consult with the office of the ombudsman in order to determine to whom a written report should be made.

C.1. This section does not authorize a county employee to report information that is subject to an applicable privilege against disclosure at law (e.g., RCW 5.60.060 privileged communications) unless waived, or to make disclosure where prohibited at law.

2. An employee making a written report under this subsection is encouraged to wait at least thirty days from receipt of the written report by the investigating official before reporting the improper governmental action to a person who is not an investigating official. However, reporting to a person who is not an investigating official before this thirty-day period will not result in the loss of the protections in this chapter.

3. An employee's reporting of the employee's own improper action does not grant the employee immunity from discipline or termination insofar as the employee's improper action would be cause for discipline.

D. For purposes of this chapter, the person to whom a written report should be made is as follows:

1. Reporting sexual harassment to the employee's supervisor, department head or other government official as set out in the county's adopted procedure for reporting sexual harassment complaints;
2. Reporting violations of the fair employment practices ordinance, which is K.C.C. chapter 12.18, to the executive or the executive's designee;

3. Reporting police misconduct to the department of public safety's internal investigation unit or to the office of law enforcement oversight;
 4. Reporting violations of the Code of Judicial Conduct to the Washington state Commission on Judicial Conduct;
 5. Reporting improper governmental action occurring within the district court to the presiding judge of the district court;
 6. Reporting improper governmental action occurring within the legislative branch to the chair of the council or to the prosecutor;
 7. Reporting improper governmental action occurring within the executive branch to the executive or to the department director of the executive agency in which the alleged improper governmental action occurred or to the ombudsman;
 8. Reporting improper governmental action occurring within the department of judicial administration to the director/clerk of the superior court or to the ombudsman;
 9. Reporting improper governmental action occurring within the department of assessments to the assessor or to the ombudsman;
 10. Reporting improper governmental action occurring within the department of elections to the director of elections or to the ombudsman;
 11. Reporting improper governmental action occurring within the superior court to the presiding judge of the superior court;
 12. Reporting violations of criminal laws to the sheriff or the county prosecuting attorney;
 13. Reporting improper governmental action of the county prosecuting attorney to the state auditor or the attorney general;
 14. Reporting improper governmental action occurring within the office of economic and financial analysis to any member of the forecast council or to the ombudsman;
 15. Reporting violations of K.C.C. chapter 3.04, the Employee Code of Ethics, to the ombudsman; and
 16. Reporting any improper governmental action for which no other appropriate recipient of a report is listed in subsection D.1. through 15. of this section to the ombudsman.
- E. Any one or more of the following conduct by employees is protected under this chapter:
1. Reporting improper governmental action;
 2. Cooperating in an investigation by any official related to improper governmental action, including but not limited to local, state, federal, and internal investigation; and
 3. Testifying in any official proceeding, hearing, or prosecution arising out of an improper governmental action.
- F. A county officer or employee shall not retaliate, attempt to retaliate or threaten to retaliate against any employee because that employee has in good faith engaged in conduct protected by K.C.C. 3.42.030E., or because the county officer or employee believes the employee has engaged or will engage in such conduct, whether or not such conduct actually occurred.
- G. Any county officer or employee who engages in retaliatory action prohibited by K.C.C. 3.42.030.F. is subject to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, suspension without pay, demotion or termination. [In addition,]* any elected official who engages in retaliatory action prohibited by K.C.C. 3.42.030.F. is subject to censure by motion of the council and also may be subject to recall from office due to misfeasance or malfeasance in office.
- H. Each appointing authority shall ensure that, upon entering county service or any time there are material changes to this chapter, every county officer and employee shall receive a written summary of this chapter, the procedures for reporting improper governmental actions to investigating officials, the procedures for obtaining the protections extended, the prohibition against retaliation in this section, and identification of offices and resources available to help the employee understand the provisions of this chapter including but not limited to the ombudsman's office. The ombudsman's office shall assist in the development of materials. Copies of these summaries shall be conspicuously posted where all employees will have reasonable access to them. Every county officer and employee shall also receive a written summary of this chapter at least once every two years; the summary may be distributed electronically. (Ord. 16580 § 3, 2009: Ord. 16391 § 22, 2009: Ord. 11687 § 4, 1995).

*Reviser's note: Material not underlined as required under K.C.C. 1.24.075 in Ordinance 16580.

3.42.040 Confidentiality. To the extent allowed by the Public Disclosure Act, RCW 42.56.240 and other laws, the identity or identifying characteristics the identity of an employee reporting information about an improper governmental action or cooperating in an investigation of improper governmental action under K.C.C. 3.42.030E.1. or K.C.C. 3.42.030E.2. shall be kept confidential from all persons except for investigating officials and their staff. However, the employee may waive confidentiality in a written waiver or by making his or her identity known in connection with the protected conduct in the course of public testimony or by acknowledging his or her identity in a claim against the county for retaliation. If applicable, the complainant may state in writing whether the complainant wishes his or her name not to be disclosed pursuant to the provisions of RCW 42.56.240(2), which exempts information revealing the identity of persons who are witnesses to or victims of crime or who file complaints with investigative, law enforcement or penology agencies, other than the commission, if disclosure would endanger any person's life, physical safety or property. (Ord. 16580 § 4, 2009: Ord. 11687 § 5, 1995).

3.42.050 Investigations.

A. If the official receiving a complaint under this section is not the appropriate investigating official identified in K.C.C. 3.42.030.D.1, he or she shall immediately forward the written report to the appropriate investigating official and notify the reporting employee of the referral.

B. If a report of improper governmental action meets the definition of a complaint under K.C.C. 3.04.055, the ombudsman, upon receipt of the report, shall investigate that allegation according to the procedures in K.C.C. chapter 3.04, the Employee Code of Ethics.

C. If the ombudsman is an appropriate investigating official and the report does not meet the definition of a complaint under K.C.C. chapter 3.04, the Employee Code of Ethics, the ombudsman upon receipt of the report may refer the report to the department director of the agency in which the alleged improper governmental action occurred or to the chief elected official of the branch of government implicated in the allegation; if the ombudsman does not refer to another official, or if the other official's response is not timely or satisfactory to the ombudsman, the ombudsman shall conduct an investigation in accordance with the procedures outlined in K.C.C. 3.42.057.

D. If a report of improper governmental action is filed with an appropriate investigating official who is not the ombudsman, and a report is concurrently filed with the ombudsman, the ombudsman may defer action until the investigation is completed by the affected department, office or agency. When the ombudsman chooses to conduct a concurrent investigation the ombudsman shall notify the executive and the chair of the council.

E. Decisions of the ombudsman under this section may not be appealed to the Board of Ethics. (Ord. 16580 § 5, 2009: Ord. 11687 § 6, 1995).

3.42.055 Investigations by investigating officials - powers - procedures - prosecutor powers.

A. The procedures in this section shall apply to any investigating official except the ombudsman or the judicial branch. Investigations by the ombudsman shall be conducted in accordance with K.C.C. 3.42.057.

B. When an appropriate investigating official who is not the ombudsman receives a report of improper governmental action, he or she shall respond to the reporting employee in writing within thirty days of when the report was received with either a final report or a preliminary report, with a copy of the response to the ombudsman. If responding with a preliminary report, the official shall include a summary of the status of the investigation and information obtained thus far, and identifying matters for further research or inquiry. If the identity of the reporting employee is not known, the response shall be sent to the ombudsman.

C. The investigating official shall complete the investigation and issue a final report no later than one year from when the report of improper governmental action was received. If the final report concludes that there was improper governmental action, it shall include an action plan for addressing the improper governmental action and provide reasonable timelines for completing corrective actions.

D. The investigating official shall send a copy of the final report to the reporting employee and the ombudsman.

E. When conducting an investigation of improper governmental action occurring within the legislative branch, the prosecutor may at any stage, issue subpoenas, administer oaths, examine witnesses, and compel the production of documents or other evidence; refer the matter to the state auditor, law enforcement authorities or other governmental agency; and issue reports; or any combination thereof, each as deemed appropriate.

F. If the investigating official determines that the employee reporting improper governmental action has been retaliated against or is at great risk of retaliation, the investigating official may seek temporary preventive action, including but not limited to the transfer of the reporting employee to another department at the request of the reporting employee or authorizing leave with pay for the reporting employee. If the investigating official deems it necessary, the investigating official's recommendation may be made to the executive. Such a temporary preventative action may continue until the conclusion of any investigation and a permanent resolution of the matter.

G. To the extent allowed by law, investigating officials are encouraged to enter into cooperative agreements or arrangements for receiving and processing complaints with other agencies or entities that are investigating related complaints, so that duplication of functions shall be minimized and multiple redundant investigations avoided. (Ord. 16580 § 6, 2009).

3.42.057 Investigations by ombudsman - powers - procedures - fines.

A. The procedures in this section apply to the ombudsman when the ombudsman is investigating a report of an improper governmental action that is not investigated according to the rules applicable to K.C.C. chapter 3.04, the Employee Code of Ethics.

B. In determining whether to conduct an investigation, the ombudsman may consider factors including, but not limited to, the nature and quality of the evidence and the existence of relevant laws and rules; whether the alleged improper governmental action was isolated or systematic; the history of previous assertions regarding the same subject or subject matter; whether other avenues are available for addressing the matter; whether the matter has already been investigated or is in litigation; the seriousness or significance of the asserted improper governmental action; and the cost and benefit of the investigation. The ombudsman has the sole discretion to determine the priority and weight given to these or any other relevant factors and to decide whether a matter is to be investigated.

C. If the ombudsman elects not to investigate the matter, the ombudsman shall, before making a final decision to close the investigation, send a notice to the person who made the report explaining the factors considered and the analysis applied, summarizing allegation deficiencies if any, and providing a reasonable opportunity to reply. The notification may be by electronic means.

D. If the ombudsman determines that the employee reporting improper governmental action has been retaliated against or is at great risk of retaliation, the ombudsman may recommend to the head of the department that temporary preventive action be taken, including but not limited to transferring the reporting employee at the reporting employee's request to another department or authorizing leave with pay for the reporting employee. If the ombudsman deems it necessary, the ombudsman's recommendation may be made to the executive instead. Such temporary preventative action may continue until the conclusion of any investigation and a permanent resolution of the matter.

E. If the ombudsman elects to conduct an investigation and it appears to the ombudsman that the investigation will take longer than thirty days to complete, the ombudsman shall, within thirty days after receiving the report of alleged improper governmental action, provide the complainant with a preliminary written report that summarizes the procedural status of the investigation, the information obtained thus far, any preliminary findings as the ombudsman deems appropriate, and identifying matters for further research or inquiry. The ombudsman shall also notify the subject or subjects of the investigation and the agency head of the need for continued investigation.

F. When conducting an investigation, the ombudsman may at any stage issue subpoenas, administer oaths, examine witnesses, and compel the production of documents or other evidence; refer the matter to the state auditor, law enforcement authorities or other governmental agency; and issue reports; or any combination thereof, each as deemed appropriate.

G. Upon completion of an investigation, the ombudsman shall make a final written report that summarizes the results of the investigation, including findings with regard to each assertion of improper governmental action and recommended actions. The ombudsman shall complete the investigation and issue a final report within one year of receipt of the report of improper governmental action.

1. If the ombudsman determines that no improper governmental action has occurred, the ombudsman shall send the report to the complainant, the subject or subjects of the investigation and the agency head.

2. If the ombudsman determines that an improper governmental action has occurred:

a. The ombudsman shall give the subject of the report an opportunity to respond before issuing a final report.

b. The ombudsman shall send the report to: the complainant; the head of the department with responsibility for the action or if a department head is implicated, to the executive and county council; and such other governmental officials or agencies as the ombudsman deems appropriate. The ombudsman shall also send a copy of the written report to the executive or the county council if requested to do so by the complainant, if the ombudsman has not already done so.

c. The department with responsibility for the improper governmental action shall report back to the ombudsman and complainant with an action plan for addressing the improper governmental action and provide reasonable timelines for completing its corrective actions. The department's response should be made within fourteen days of receipt of the ombudsman's report. If the ombudsman deems that satisfactory action within a reasonable timeframe has not been achieved, the ombudsman shall report his or her determination to the executive and the county council.

d. The ombudsman may impose a fine of not greater than ten thousand dollars on the department within which the improper governmental action occurred. A fine should be imposed for improper governmental actions that are exceptionally egregious or for which corrective actions have been highly unsatisfactory. The department shall be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard before imposition of any fine. Proceeds collected from any fine shall be deposited into an account to be used for the purpose of educating employees about this chapter or may be applied by the department toward the cost of administrative leave paid to the employee reporting the improper governmental action where the reason for the administrative leave is related to the employee's reporting.

H. At any stage in the investigation, the ombudsman may, with the agreement of the parties, recommend, arrange for, convene, or conduct voluntary mediation between the employee and either the subject of the investigation or agency head, or both, with cost sharing, if any, to be determined by the parties.

1. If the parties reach agreement as a result of mediation, the ombudsman may close the investigation.

2. The response times from subsection E. of this section shall be tolled for the duration of the mediation process.

3. Mediation and other informal resolution processes are voluntary. No employer or employee shall be pressured into participating in such processes, and no negative inferences shall be drawn if any party declines to participate in such processes. If a party agrees to participate in voluntary mediation or other informal resolution process, that party is under no obligation to accept the resolution recommended by the mediator, the ombudsman, or any other person participating in this process, and no negative inferences shall be drawn as a result of a refusal to accept such recommendations.

I. The ombudsman may close an investigation at any time the ombudsman determines that no further action is warranted and shall so notify the complainant, the subject or subjects of the investigation and the agency head. The ombudsman shall also issue any reports as required by this section.

J. Decisions of the ombudsman under this section may not be appealed to the board of ethics. (Ord. 16580 § 7, 2009).

3.42.060 Reporting and adjudicating retaliation - ombudsman, prosecutor powers and procedures.

A. In order to seek relief, an employee who believes he or she has been retaliated against in violation of K.C.C. 3.42.030.E. must file a signed written complaint within six months of when the alleged retaliation occurred or the employee reasonably should have known of the occurrence. The complaint shall be filed with the ombudsman and must specify the alleged retaliatory action and the relief requested.

B. The ombudsman shall conduct an investigation of the alleged retaliatory action except that complaints involving the judicial branch shall be forwarded to the appropriate investigating official for that branch for investigation and complaints involving councilmembers shall be forwarded to and investigated by the prosecutor.

C. When conducting an investigation, the ombudsman or prosecutor may at any stage, issue subpoenas, administer oaths, examine witnesses, and compel the production of documents or other evidence; refer the matter to the state auditor, law enforcement authorities or other governmental agency; and issue reports; or any combination thereof, each as deemed appropriate.

D. If it appears to the ombudsman or prosecutor after conducting an investigation that no retaliation has occurred, the ombudsman or prosecutor shall so notify the complainant summarizing his or her findings and providing a reasonable opportunity for the complainant to reply before making a final determination.

E. The ombudsman or prosecutor shall, within forty-five days after receiving the report of alleged retaliatory action, provide the complainant with a written report that summarizes the results of the investigation, including findings with regard to each assertion of retaliation and recommended actions. The ombudsman or prosecutor shall also send a copy of the written report to any governmental officials or agencies as he or she deems appropriate. If the ombudsman or prosecutor finds that additional time is needed to complete the report, he or she shall notify the complainant in writing before the expiration of the forty-five day response period, and shall specify the reasons that additional time is required. The effect of the notice is to extend for forty-five days the time period in which a response must be made. Only two such extensions may be made.

F. The following apply to investigations by the ombudsman under this section.

1. If it appears to the ombudsman at any stage in the process that the complainant is at great risk of retaliation, the ombudsman may recommend to the head of the department that temporary preventive action be taken, including but not limited to transferring the individual to another department or authorizing leave with pay. If the ombudsman deems it necessary, the ombudsman's recommendation may be made to the executive instead. Such temporary preventative action may continue until the conclusion of any investigation and a permanent resolution of the matter;

2. If the ombudsman determines that no retaliatory action has occurred, the ombudsman shall send the report to the complainant, the subject or subjects of the investigation and the agency head; and

3. If the ombudsman determines that retaliatory action has occurred:

a. The ombudsman shall give the subject of the investigation an opportunity to respond before issuing a final report;

b. The ombudsman shall send the report to: the complainant; the head of the department with responsibility for the action or if a department head is implicated, to the executive and county council, and to such other governmental officials or agencies as the ombudsman deems appropriate. The ombudsman shall also send a copy of the written report to the executive or the county council if requested to do so by the complainant, if the ombudsman has not already done so;

c. The department with responsibility for the retaliatory action shall report back to the ombudsman and complainant with an action plan for addressing the retaliatory action and provide reasonable timelines for when the corrective actions will occur. The department's response should be made within fourteen days of receipt of the ombudsman's report;

d. If the ombudsman deems that the responsible department has not taken satisfactory action within a reasonable timeframe, the ombudsman shall report his or her determination to the executive and the county council; and

e. The ombudsman may impose a fine on the department within which the retaliatory action occurred; the ombudsman shall not impose a fine greater than ten thousand dollars. A fine should be imposed for retaliatory actions where the department's response to the retaliatory actions was grossly inadequate. The department shall be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard before imposition of any fine. Proceeds collected from any fine shall be deposited into an account to be used for the purpose of educating employees about this chapter or applied by the department toward administrative leave paid to the complainant where the reason for the administrative leave is related to the retaliation claim.

G. At any stage in the investigation, the ombudsman or prosecutor may, with the agreement of the parties, recommend, arrange for, convene or conduct voluntary mediation between the employee and the subject of the investigation and/or agency head.

1. If the employer and employee reach agreement as a result of a mediation, the investigation shall be closed and the employee shall not be entitled to seek a hearing under subsection I. of this section.

2. If the employer and employee fail to reach agreement, the response times from subsection C. of this section shall be tolled for the duration of the mediation process.

3. Mediation and other informal resolution processes are voluntary. No employer or employee shall be pressured into participating in such processes, and no negative inferences shall be drawn if any party declines to participate in such processes. If a party agrees to participate in voluntary mediation or other informal resolution process, that party is under no obligation to accept the resolution recommended by the mediator, the ombudsman, or any other person participating in this process, and no negative inferences shall be drawn as a result of a refusal to accept such recommendations.

H. The ombudsman or prosecutor may close an investigation at any time he or she determines that no further action is warranted and shall so notify the complainant, the subject or subjects of the investigation and the agency head. The ombudsman or prosecutor shall also issue any reports as required by this section.

I. Decisions of the ombudsman under this section may not be appealed to the board of ethics.

J. If an employee who has filed a complaint of retaliation under this section is dissatisfied with the progress of the investigation or the response and desires a hearing under RCW 42.41.040, the employee shall deliver a request for hearing to the head of the branch within which retaliation is alleged to have occurred within the later of: one year of when the alleged retaliation occurred or the employee reasonably should have known of the occurrence; or ninety days from receipt of the department's response under K.C.C. 3.42.060E.2.b. The employee shall notify the ombudsman of the request. Within five working days of receipt of the request for hearing, the county shall apply to the state office of administrative hearings for a hearing to be conducted as provided in RCW 42.41.040(4) through (9).

K. An employee shall not have the right to seek a hearing under this section if the complaint of retaliation is pursued under and falls within the subject matter jurisdiction of a collective bargaining agreement grievance procedure ending in binding arbitration or the career service grievance procedure ending in a hearing before the personnel board.

L. To the extent allowed by law, investigating officials are encouraged to enter into cooperative agreements or arrangements for receiving and processing complaints with other agencies or entities that are investigating related complaints, so that duplication of functions shall be minimized and multiple redundant investigations avoided. (Ord. 16580 § 8, 2009: Ord. 11687 § 7, 1995).

3.42.070 Annual reports. By March 31 of each year, the ombudsman shall submit an annual report on the status of the whistleblower program from the previous year, including summarizing improper governmental action and retaliation claims processed the previous year, case outcomes from all claims investigated by King County officials, resource issues, any concerns raised by whistleblowers about the process and any recommendations for program improvements. The ombudsman is encouraged to seek feedback from participants in the whistleblower process when preparing the report. Three copies of the report shall be filed with the clerk of the council for distribution to the chair of the council and the executive. (Ord. 16580 § 9, 2009).

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Chapter 3.46
DRUG/ALCOHOL EDUCATION AND TESTING

Sections:

- 3.46.010 Drug/alcohol education and testing program - established.
- 3.46.020 Definitions.
- 3.46.030 Policy - limited applicability.
- 3.46.040 Education.
- 3.46.050 Testing.
- 3.46.060 Types of testing.
- 3.46.070 Discipline.
- 3.46.080 Executive authorized to sign agreements.

3.46.010 Drug/alcohol education and testing program - established. There is established a program for prohibited drug use/alcohol misuse education and testing program policy limited to persons employed by King County or employed by a transit contractor performing certain safety sensitive functions as defined in applicable federal law. (Ord. 12413 § 2, 1996).

3.46.020 Definitions.

- A. "Safety sensitive" relates to the following functions:
1. Operating revenue service vehicles, including operation when the vehicle is not in revenue service;
 2. Operating nonrevenue service vehicles when operation of such vehicles requires the driver to hold a commercial driver's license (CDL);
 3. Controlling the dispatch or movement of a revenue service vehicle;
 4. Maintaining a revenue service vehicle or equipment used in revenue service;
 5. Carrying a firearm for transit security purposes; or
 6. All employees of independent contractors who perform services for King County in positions which are listed previously. (Ord. 12413 § 1, 1996).

3.46.030 Policy - limited applicability. King County as a federal grantee and contractor responsible for certain transportation or related operations and programs is committed to maintaining a drug/alcohol-free workplace to promote both the safety of its employees, customers and the public and the quality of its services. Every King County employee or employee of a transit contractor who holds a position which is defined as safety sensitive is subject to regulations issued pursuant to the Omnibus Transportation Act of 1991, as subsequently amended, and each employee, in accordance with this act and under King County authority shall follow applicable rules and regulations promulgated under K.C.C. 2.98 and/or bargained in good faith under Ordinance 11480, provided that such rules and regulations shall not limit collectively bargained agreements already in effect upon the effective date of Ordinance 12413 (8/8/96) codified in this chapter. It is the policy of King County that the provisions of this chapter shall be strictly related to the intent of the Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991, as subsequently amended; 49 CFR Parts 40, 382, 653 and 654 and the U.S. Drug Free Workplace Act of 1988, as subsequently amended and applicable regulations issued pursuant to such acts. The passage of Ordinance 12413 notwithstanding, nothing in this chapter shall preclude a future legal challenge enjoining the federal government from abrogating the civil rights protections contained in the State of Washington Constitution. (Ord. 12413 § 3, 1996).

3.46.040 Education. All county employees and employees of independent contractors who perform safety sensitive functions covered by this chapter shall receive a copy of the county's prohibited drug use and alcohol misuse education and testing program policy and appropriate information concerning the prohibited drug and misuse education and testing program. The executive shall be authorized to establish an education program appropriate to the functions of employees covered by this chapter. (Ord. 12413 § 4, 1996).

3.46.050 Testing. Employees subject to alcohol testing under this chapter will have a sample of their breath tested for the presence of the intoxicating agent in beverage alcohol, ethyl alcohol or other low molecular weight alcohols and including methyl or isopropyl alcohol. Any refusal to submit to an alcohol test and all positive alcohol tests will be reported to the executive or his/her designee. Employees subject to drug testing will have a sample of their urine tested for the presence of five drugs as follows:

1. Marijuana;
2. Cocaine;
3. Opiates;
4. Amphetamines;
5. Phencyclidine.

All drug tests will be reported by the testing laboratory to a medical review officer designated by the county who will evaluate the results. After evaluation and interpretation, all verified positive test results will be reported by the medical review officer to the executive or his/her designee. Any refusal to submit to a drug test will be immediately reported by the collection site to the executive or his/her designee. If employees test positive as previously explained, said employees will be notified by the medical review officer that they have seventy-two hours following this notification in which to request, at their own expense, that a split urine specimen be tested by another laboratory certified by the State Department of Health and Human Services. In the event that the split sample test is negative, the employee will be reimbursed for the test. Failure to request testing of the split specimen within seventy-two hours of being notified of a positive test by the medical review officer will result in the test results from the original specimen being accepted as the final test results. Provided, that there will be only one random testing pool for all King County employees covered by the provisions of this chapter. Independent contractors will have the option of participating in one random testing pool for all their employees who perform safety sensitive functions covered by this chapter. (Ord. 12413 § 5, 1996).

3.46.060 Types of testing. All county employees subject to the provisions of this chapter shall be required to submit to the following tests as applicable: pre-employment tests; post accident tests; random tests; reasonable suspicion tests; and return to duty/follow-up tests. The executive shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary and proper to implement this chapter insuring employee confidentiality, the integrity of the testing process, safeguarding the validity of the test results, and ensuring that the test results are attributed to the correct employee. Provided, that all county employees and their union representatives, if applicable, subject to the provisions of this chapter shall be provided with a copy of the appropriate forms prepared indicating the grounds for requiring an employee to submit to a reasonable suspicion test within twenty-four hours of testing or as soon as possible thereafter. Provided further, that when available, a second supervisor will also observe an employee to determine if a reasonable suspicion test is required and complete the related forms in accordance with this chapter and rules and regulations promulgated pursuant thereof. (Ord. 12413 § 6, 1996).

3.46.070 Discipline. It is the policy of King County that employees performing safety sensitive functions as defined in this chapter, as subsequently amended, will be subject to discipline as appropriate and specified in procedures and rules promulgated under K.C.C. 2.98 and collective bargaining agreements adopted under Ordinance 11480. (Ord. 12413 § 7, 1996).

3.46.080 Executive authorized to sign agreements. The executive or his/her designee is authorized to enter into agreements with alcohol and drug testing services providers as required for the implementation of this chapter. (Ord. 12413 § 8, 1996).